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COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

THE enclosed remarks, the fruits of actual observation, or of good information, are respectfully submitted to your consideration and approbation, from one who wishes well to your spirited and useful undertaking.

A DESCRIPTION OF STRABANE.

"Patria infelici fidelis."

I HAVE been pleased to see, in your useful publication, several attempts at the descriptive, giving accounts of certain portions of the neighbouring country. Although these descriptions have neither the lively and elegant spirit of a Moore, nor the deep erudition and profound philosophical remarks of a Gibbon, yet they bespeak a growing desire to cultivate and improve in laudable efforts, to communicate useful information in the department of local topography. I wish you, Messrs. Editors, to encourage this sort of writing, but upon a more enlarged and liberal system; besides counting the trees in a field, or the houses in a village, let them give us "a sketch of men and manners," something like "a view of society," describing the difference between the *animal* and the *vegetable* creation. It would be right, Gentlemen, if your Correspondents would cast their eyes on the plans followed with such eminent success by our more fortunate, because more favoured neighbours, in Britain, particularly by Sir John Sinclair, in his Statistical Accounts of the Parishes, of Scotland. You must know, that accurate and authentic descriptions of particular portions, are the best foundation for a true and useful history of a whole country.

I remember an attempt was made some years ago, by a respectable publisher, in a northern county, to encourage histories of the several parishes in his vicinity; but it was soon *blasted* to him, from authority, that the political and religious state of Ireland was such, as to forbid any reference either to its ancient or its modern condition. Our country must, indeed, be unfortunate, if we be debarred not only from describing former transactions, but must also throw a veil over our present situation. Must all means of improvement be prevented? Must our hopes be deadened, of one day becoming equal to our jealous sister (or, as some call her, our envious step-mother) in science, in civilization, in wealth and respectability?

Without presuming to draw aside the mysterious veil thrown over the history of past times, permit me to send you a few local observations on a part of the country not yet noticed in your Magazine; observations which have occurred to me during a few days' residence in the town of Strabane and its neighbourhood. But I give them to you only as broken and detached hints, hoping that some more able and experienced writer may improve upon them,* and produce a more scientific and extended view, both of *men* and *manners* in this part of Ireland.

Strabane is pleasantly situated on the eastern side of the Mourne, extending about a mile on the banks of that river, and may contain between four and five thousand inhabitants. Before the *union* it sent two members to the *Irish* parliament, being a borough, under the influence of the Marquis of Abercorn. It has one church of the Established religion, one Dissenting meeting-house, a small congregation of Methodists, and a large congregation of Catholics. The manners of the people of this place are in general of a sober and industrious cast, being nearly all of them either merchants or shop-keepers, or employed in the linen-trade, with a number

* Describing *man as he is*, "catching the living manners as they rise."

of the lower orders of mechanics and labourers; having little time for idling and studying fashions, they are pestered with but few of those *nothing-to-do gentlemen*, who infest larger and wealthier communities. Strabane cannot boast of many internal beauties, either as to houses or streets; if the original planners, or settlers, had reserved a wide vacancy, properly embanked towards the river, it had materially contributed to the beauty of the town, and the health and conveniency of the inhabitants; as it is, the range of building brought close upon the water, disfigures the town, and renders the houses on that side extremely damp and unwholesome, as the river is subject to frequent and sudden floods, particularly at the lower end, towards Lifford.

A wide and deep canal has lately been cut, from opposite to Port-hall, about four miles distant, up to the northern side of the town, which very much facilitates the navigation of merchandize and heavy articles from Derry, the landing port. The Marquis of Abercorn, it is said, means to encourage the building of a new town at the bason of the canal, in order to increase the value and consequence of his property in that direction. A very respectable bridge of nine arches, across the Mourne, connects the town with the fertile and populous parish of Urney, and from which a road leads towards Castlefin, Ballybofey, Ballyshannon, &c. There is another bridge of nearly equal dimensions cast over the Foyle, at Lifford, the county town of Donegall, where the Mourne and the Finn form a conjunction, these rivers now make a very considerable body of water, a broad and rapid stream, influenced by the tide, which passing under the fine bridge of Derry, twelve miles from Strabane, falls into the noble estuary of Lough Foyle, dividing the counties of Derry and Donegall, and is finally lost in the Atlantic Ocean.

The best view of the country is from the summit of Knockivo, a mountain that rises immediately behind Strabane, and may be more than two thousand feet above the level of the river. From this lofty and commanding site there is a very extended prospect, at least thirty miles distant in some parts of the circle, which is circumscribed by one continued range of mountains, rising in the counties of Derry, Donegall and Tyrone. In front, to the westward, is seen the famous gap of Barnesmore; to the N. W. the celebrated *Muckish** rears its huge back above all the other mountains, something resembling in shape an immense turf stack. Below, the country appears like a map presenting a great scope of cultivation, with the rivers Mourne, and Finn, and Foyle, meandering their divers course towards the sea. There is an abundance of hills and vallies, and waters to enrich the prospect, but it is miserably deficient in wood, owing, it is alleged, to the short and uncertain leases granted to the occupiers.

There are several towns of some consequence in the neighbourhood of Strabane. Newtown Stewart, a thriving place, about seven miles to the S.E. lying on the great road to Dublin. Castlefin, five miles to the westward, on the banks of the Finn. Raphoe, also five miles to the N.W. and Lifford, seated at the foot of Crochan-hill, only one mile in the same direction. The latter places are within sight of Strabane, and contribute to the diversity of the scenery.

I know of no gentlemen's seats in this part of the country, worthy of particular notice. Every thing in that way sinks in comparison with Lord Belmore's splendid mansion, near Enniskillen. Lord Mountjoy has a noble domain (the work of his respectable father) beyond Newtown Stewart, but the house is little better than a large cottage. Baron's-court, the seat of the Marquis of Abercorn, lying at the foot of the mountain called Bessy Bell, is entirely unworthy of a nobleman possessed of so princely a fortune; his domain is beautified by a fine piece of water, surrounded by an extensive wood, but the whole is so much sunk in a bottom, as scarcely to be seen until you are in it. The Rev. Mr. Fowler has a small neat improvement, on the banks of the Finn, but the house has nothing to recommend

* This mountain produces that peculiar kind of sand, so useful in the making of fine glass, &c.

it for any sort of beauty. Nor does the palace of the bishop of Raphoe deserve so dignified a title, unless it be necessary, contrary to the fashion of the apostolic age, that a modern bishop can live no where but in a house called a palace.

By the bye, your orthodox readers will be pleased to hear that the higher clergy (those of the establishment I mean) are handsomely provided for in these parts.* The bishoprick of Raphoe, is now worth above 6000*l.* and will soon amount to 10,000*l.* a year. The bishoprick of Derry is now worth 14,000*l.* and will soon rise to 20,000*l.* a year. Little did the fishermen of Galilee imagine, that any of their successors would receive such capital wages! *They* did not think of palaces and coaches, and such like grandeur. Simple souls, they only thought of preaching the gospel!

Among the great land-holders in this part of the country, I heard mentioned the Marquis of Abercorn, Lord Mountjoy and Lord Erne; but the first is by far the most considerable, both as to the extent and the value of property. His lordship's estate reaches from Baron's-court (the place of his occasional residence, about three miles beyond Newtown Stewart) on both sides of the river, with few intervals, all the way to the liberties of Derry. This extensive property puts it in his lordship's power to be the benefactor or the oppressor of a numerous tenantry. Providence has been pleased to place this nobleman on a high station in society, and to give him vast influence, either as to the happiness or misery of thousands of his fellow mortals. No doubt, his lordship has wisdom to discern, and magnanimity to pursue a liberal system of conduct. *Parcere subjectis.* By condescending to promote the comfort and happiness of his tenantry, he will secure to himself their veneration and gratitude. Descended from a long line of illustrious ancestors, his noble mind will always recollect, that *virtus est sola nobilitas*.

Upon inquiring into the conduct of the principal landlords hereabouts, I found a wide difference of character. I was told of one, who expressed a wish, "that every one of his tenants should be able to afford him a good piece of beef and a fat hen, whenever he should choose to dine with any of them." Of another, who by his short tenures and high rents, seemed determined to leave his screwed-up dependants scarcely any thing to eat above potatoes and herrings.

I wish, Messrs. Editors, that some of your able writers would give us a solemn warning-piece on this most interesting subject, showing the mistaken, the dangerous policy of land-holders, squeezing their tenantry of their last shilling. God knows, there are already too many causes of discontent in this unhappy country. Impress upon their minds, I beseech ye, the necessity of union and concord amongst every class of the people. These are critical and alarming times. The great destroyer, or the great reformer (call him what you please) is abroad in the world; and we know, if the people, I mean, the MEN, of Spain, of Italy, or of Germany, had been contented and united, that *Bonaparte* had not now been the conqueror of Europe. It would be wise, methinks, in our rulers and great men, not to force their subjects, or tenants, to wish for new masters, and to say, or even to think, "come what may, we may be bettered by a change, for we cannot be worse."

The inhabitants of Strabane spoke favourably of their chief magistrate, the Rev. Stewart Hamilton, rector of the parish of Camus. Whilst this gentleman is unremitting in the execution of his public duty, he is uniform in a kind and affable behaviour to all his fellow citizens. This is a proof, if proofs were wanting, that men in office, or high stations, when they conduct themselves with a due degree of condescension and humanity, will assuredly attain and

*I learned that the lower orders of the clergy are also well provided for in the diocese of Derry. Many of the parishes yielding from 600*l.* to 2000*l.* a year. The income of the rector of Donaghmore is 3000*l.* per annum. It is pleasant to observe, that the value of tythes, much to the emolument of the clergy, and the edification of their hearers, increases as rapidly as any other article of landed produce.

enjoy both public favour and private esteem.

As to myself, during my short stay among them, I must speak of the inhabitants of Strabane, with respect and gratitude for their kindness and hospitality; not but I perceived symptoms of pride and superciliousness in some corners of the town. The truth is, Strabane, Derry and Belfast have their *quality*, who presume to turn up their noses at their honest and more industrious neighbours. In these places it is the constant struggle of the *plebeians* to get up, and of the *patricians* (except upon electioneering occasions) to keep them down, which is the continual source of foolish bickerings, and silly heart-burnings. Perhaps, on a future occasion, I may furnish you with some laughable instances of most ridiculous warfare, of petty pride on one side, and of petty ambition on the other. The would-be gentry will appear the more ridiculous, when it is known, that many of their fathers, and some of themselves, but lately emerged from the lowest trades and occupations; but, as in Queen Bess' days, "the peasant's toe treads on the gentleman's heel." The people of Strabane, however, I observed, wisely avoid these nonsensical contentions, and maintain among themselves, a cheerful and well regulated society, leaving the feeble and antiquated *nobility* of the square to dose over their vain and imaginary consequence.

I had almost forgotten to have informed you, that about half way up the mountain of Knockivo, commences a deep and narrow chasm, or dell, called the Glen; it sketches downwards about a mile, until it terminates on the road to Derry. This is certainly a very romantic spot of the kind, full of lofty rocks and gloomy precipices, fringed with various kinds of trees and ever-greens; at the bottom runs a purling stream, its limpid waters gurgling and groping their way amongst innumerable bushes and wild flowers. It is a scene such as may be seen in some parts of Wales, and the county of Wicklow. It has a solitary and fairy-like appearance, and is well calculated for the fanciful dreams either of despairing or successful *lovers*. Some years ago, the noble proprietor built a handsome cottage, entirely in the rural style; and here, and hereabouts of a summer's evening, were seen various groups of both sexes, "listening to the voice of love,"* and enjoying the delight of the romantic scenery. Doubtless it was a very convenient rendezvous for the frolickings of boys and girls, where, amidst the murmuring of brooks and the melody of birds, there seemed to be "a Cupid in every rose-bud, and a Venus in every myrtle;" nay, it is even said, that certain of the reverend grey-beards from town, would, now and then, get a little mellow here, with too frequent potations of clear *Glenmornin*, or pure *Inishowen*. My Lord, the Marquis, who is himself extremely attentive to the laws of society, particularly in whatever relates to the intercourse of the sexes, demolished the building, and removed every atom of its materials, hereby evincing a most commendable care of the morals of his tenantry, and paternally anxious that they should not transgress the bounds of decorum, either in love or whiskey.

Strabane is situated in a thickly inhabited country. When the linen manufacture was in its prime, with spinning, and weaving, and farming, the people had sufficient employment; but since the decline of that business, many of them have been thrown idle. In Britain, they have such a variety of branches of trade, that when one fails, they can betake themselves to another. In this part of the country, the inhabitants have only one resource; when that sinks, all is a blank with them. If to make a people industrious and useful, be the duty of the rulers of a nation, what sort of rulers has *this* nation had for the last hundred years? But if Ireland is intended only as a nursery for the army, then we have had the wisest governors that ever ruled a nation. Accordingly, vast numbers of the young men enter into the army; and every family here has either a father, a son, a brother, or a nephew, learning the noble art of

* "In pleasing error lost, and charmingly deceived."

killing, instead of driving the plough or the shuttle. The bones of many hundreds of Irish weavers lie bleaching in the arid plains of Spain, or are rotting in the stagnant marshes of Walcheren. But the old men and women who cannot conveniently go a soldiering, being left behind, they and their children, in numerous and successive troops, covered with rags and vermin, incessantly importune every passenger, and besiege every door and window, with piteous moans and supplications, petitioning for succour and support. The vast number of beggars, of all ages and sexes, and the frightful appearance of their cabins, or hovels, strike every feeling mind with pity and horror. Surely, if the great people at St. James' could have but one view of these miserable creatures, their royal breasts would be touched by compassion, and they would exert their royal wisdom to relieve their wretched subjects in Ireland.

Every sincere well-wisher to his country, in the province of Ulster, venerates the names of HENRY and ROBERT JOY, the founders of much of the wealth and prosperity of Belfast. They sowed their seed in a good soil, and it has yielded an abundant crop. In the eye of virtue and *true* religion, how vastly superior are these men to those *great* statesmen and warriors, who busy themselves in planning the misery and destruction of the human race! Such a man was WILLIAM ROSS, of Strabane, who, alone and unsupported, by an almost unexampled zeal and perseverance, introduced and conducted the cotton manufacture amongst his townsmen, and gave bread and employment to numbers of men, women, and children; but death deprived the community of his public-spirited exertions; with him, the manufacture sunk, and there is scarcely a wreck of it left behind. No monumental column rises to adorn the grave of this most excellent man, but he lives in the esteem and respect of his fellow-citizens; and this tribute to his memory, the spontaneous offering of a passing traveller, will, I hope, be recorded and perpetuated in the Belfast Magazine.

VIATOR.

Coleraine, Oct. 1809.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

THE CONSTANT SOLDIER.

THE seeds of the social virtues are inherent in the breasts of our countrymen; and though they are deemed the indefeasible inheritors of ignorance, nature has endued them with virtuous affections, so bounteously, that the conduct of our peasantry, in many respects, is capable of awakening to a consciousness of inferiority, and a sense of shame, the more polished and enlightened classes of mankind. To illustrate this position, I beg leave to recite the following *true story*, which came under my observation, some months past, and, which, if it is not inconsistent with the plan of your miscellany, you will oblige me by inserting.

I was walking between Ballymena and Ahoghill, and happened to overtake a middle-aged man, in whose countenance Lavater would have discovered the hero and the philosopher, although the changes of climate, and the hardships he had undergone, had given an austerity to a face, which had once been engaging: I found strongly inclined to enter into discourse with him, as follows: I presume you have travelled far, friend, said I, as you appear much fatigued? "Yes, master," said he (turning on me an eye, beaming benevolence) "I have, indeed, travelled far, but my present journey seems the most momentous of my life, and my mind is employed in expectation, even against hope—yet a few days, and I shall know if I am to wear out the remainder of my life in happiness or in misery." "You are going for a legacy, perhaps," rejoined I, "and are afraid of the many quirks and devices which;

Base, insidious men
Have cumb'rous added to perplex the truth,
And lengthen simple justice into trade."

"No" said he, "I should never suffer money, to excite the passions by which I am agitated; but, as you seem interested in my story, I will tell it you."

"I was bred in the county Waterford, and at the age of eighteen I

enlisted in a regiment, which was then quartered in Londonderry. I had just got released from drill, when I one day happened to stroll a little out of town, and while I was ruminating on the felicity of my condition, I was overtaken with a shower, and as soldiers, sir, sometimes fear a shower worse than the shot of the enemy, I did then (what I have never since done, while fighting the battles of my country) fairly took to my heels. I ran into a little cottage where I chanced to see a young woman spinning beside her mother. I am no scholar, sir, and therefore cannot give a very glowing description of her charms; suffice it to say, she had charms sufficient to captivate my heart. I begged leave to visit her, and after some months' courtship, she, with the consent of her mother, made me the happiest of men; three weeks, three little weeks! after the great, the important ceremony had taken place, and oh! dreadful vicissitude! our regiment was ordered to the East Indies, and I had so little ascendancy over my officers, that I was denied that the dear partner of my heart should accompany me; you, sir, may guess my struggles between love and duty, but being allowed little time to reflect, I was hurried on board, and though my heart was rent by the cruel disjunction, I bade her adieu. Twenty-one years and a half, have since expired; the thoughts of my beloved spouse cheered my drooping heart in the days of danger: for some years I received letters from her, but for twelve past, I was not favoured with a single line. I have been discharged, and thanks to my sovereign, I have been made by him independent. I am now, master, travelling to Derry, and if my dear wife is yet alive, I will spend the evening of my days in peaceful sequestration; but if she is dead, or, dire reflection! in the possession of another, I shall not long survive the heart-rending calamity."

Here I seized the honest veteran by the hand, while the big sympathetic sigh burst insensibly from my heart. I wished him success and bade him adieu. S.

September 19, 1809.

The narrator of the above story, has lately learned, that the worthy soldier has found his wife, with a daughter 21 years of age; that he has removed to his own country, there to enjoy the calm contentment he so justly deserved.

Bow your heads! ye lofty sons of dissipation, and let the example of an obscure, ignoble son of Mars, inspirit you with a noble emulation of his constancy, and know, assuredly, that you shall, like him, enjoy the happy fruition to which a life spent thus virtuously will entitle you.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

REPLY TO SOME OBSERVATIONS IN THE VISIT TO ENGLAND, IN NO. XIV.

IT has been remarked that he who travels through Europe on foot, forms a very different estimate of countries from him who is whirled forward in a carriage. The one has opportunities to see mankind at leisure, and often stays sufficiently long at a place, to examine beyond the first appearances. The other, if even endued with the best talents for discrimination has time to take only a transient view, and has little leisure to judge between appearances and realities which are often separated by an immeasurable distance. In confirmation of the opinion, that it requires time and uninterrupted opportunity to form a just estimate of character, I shall adduce another maxim as to travelling, with which I have met, "that to be shut up for two days with a fellow traveller, in a stage coach, would give more insight into his character, than to meet the same person for two hours in every day for a year."

I would apply these remarks to some parts of "a visit to England," published in your last number. In general I am highly pleased with the observations of your interesting Correspondent; but I am apprehensive that he has adopted too favourable an opinion of the Welsh character.—I cannot lay claim to passing through that country on foot; but a few years ago, I spent about three months in North and South Wales, and traversed most of the principality, under cir-

cumstances pretty favourable for a close inspection into the manners of the inhabitants.

I am unable to join in the eulogy on them for their simplicity, as making allowances for many honourable exceptions from general character, which ought to be made in every liberal estimate of a country, they appeared to be rather unsocial to strangers, and ready to take advantage in dealing: committing perhaps not many atrocious frauds, but pursuing that line of petty warfare, which is designated by the names of trick and cunning.—Zealous, enthusiastic, and even fanatical in their notions of religion, they are not restrained in their conduct by the laws of a strict morality.—Their religion partook more of warm devotional feeling, carried to high extravagance, than of sedate, well regulated principle, pervading the whole tenour of their actions. Wales is peculiarly the scene of those wild enthusiasts, the Jumpers. I have heard many well authenticated instances of their extravagance, which were not always confined to their meeting-houses, for when thoroughly heated by their fanaticism, and jumping, which latter is in their phrase to get nearer to heaven, they have rushed out, and annoyed their more peaceable neighbours, by the violence of their misguided devotion, which in many cases bordered on frenzy. Yet I did not find that these zealots were distinguished for superior propriety of conduct in their general dealings.—They thus afforded another instance that extravagance of zeal is very frequently not accompanied with increased sanctity of life, or purity of manners.

With part of your Correspondent's observations, on the poor laws, as connected with the "Caution to Vagrants," at Shrewsbury, I participate in a similar feeling: but I think some of his remarks are not sufficiently calculated to discourage mendicity. It has been well remarked, "that on the day a man becomes a beggar, he loses half his worth." I would wish by all means to encourage a spirit of independence among the poor, nay, even almost approaching to pride, which would scorn to receive parochial or other relief, except on extraordinary emergencies. Hence I am not inclined to blame the enforcing of regulations against idle strolers and vagrants. They are too often pests to society.

The poor who are really suffering, and often feel complicated distresses, claim the compassion and attention of those in more comfortable circumstances: but I have often seen sturdy vagrants, who could make more by begging, than the sober and industrious could earn by labour. This is surely not as it should be, and requires the remedial correction of a vigilant police. Under certain circumstances indiscriminating charity, becomes a premium for idleness and profligacy.

I have received so much pleasure from the general tenour of your Correspondent's judicious remarks, that I am unwilling to conclude without apologizing to him for the liberty I have taken in expressing my dissent from him in some particulars, but my object is to promote free discussion, and an *eclaircissement*, on such points, as may tend to produce a clear and impartial estimate of character. A TRAVELLER.

REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Continued from p. 178, *No.* XIV.

HAVING submitted to your Grace the result of our inquiries into the funds and revenues of the Incorporated Society, we proceed to report to your Grace upon the conduct and management of the Institution.

The business of the society is transacted by committees, under the controul of a general board, which meets regularly on the first Wednesday in every month, and on other days when specially summoned by requisition, signed by seven members. There are four committees;

1st. The Committee of fifteen,
2d. The Committee of Accounts,
3d. The Law Committee,
4th. The Committee for examining into the qualifications of persons who offer themselves as candidates for the situations of masters, mistresses, and assistants in the schools.

Of these, the principal is the committee of fifteen, which is elected an-

nually by ballot on the first Wednesday in February, and which meets regularly every Wednesday in the year, and oftener when necessary. Upon this committee almost the whole weight of the labour of management rests; it is empowered to transact all the ordinary business of the society, except the election and dismissal of officers and of masters and mistresses, and the letting leases of the society's lands, which acts can only be done by a general board. The duties of the committee of fifteen are various, to the adequate discharge of which much zeal, integrity and assiduity are indispensably required; and on the manner in which these duties are performed, the welfare of the whole establishment principally depends. The three first of these committees seem coeval with the society; the fourth, the committee for examining into the qualifications of masters, mistresses, and assistants to the schools, was appointed in the year 1804. This committee, as well as the committee of fifteen, is open to every member of the society, and public notice is given of the days on which examinations of the candidate masters, &c. are to be held. The effects resulting from the appointment of this committee, appear to have been highly salutary and important, in excluding unqualified, and bringing forward meritorious candidates. The officers of the society are, a secretary, at a salary of two hundred and fifty pounds per annum; a clerk, or register, at one hundred guineas per annum; and an inspector of apprentices in the city of Dublin, at a salary of twenty pounds per annum. In addition to these committees and officers resident and acting in the city of Dublin, each school is under the immediate direction of a local committee, consisting of the principal resident Protestant gentlemen and ladies of the neighbourhood, and of a catechist, who is always a clergyman of the established church, and generally the curate of the parish in which the school is situated. It is the duty of the catechist to superintend the education of the children generally, and more especially their religious instruction, and to communicate monthly his observations upon the state of the school, and conduct of the master, and, in concert with the local committee, to exercise general controul, examine and settle accounts, and report every quarter to the committee of fifteen in Dublin.

In theory, no constitution seems better calculated to advance the purposes of the society than the establishment of local committees; but it appears, from the experience, as well of this society as of the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge in Scotland, that local committees are not to be universally or implicitly relied upon, either as an effectual means of controul over the management of the schools, or as accurate organs of communication of their actual state. To this general observation, there are some highly honourable exceptions to be made. But it appears that the society has not unfrequently been misled as to the actual state of their schools, by the too favourable representations of their local committees. We must not omit, that there is a standing rule of the society, that their schools shall be at all seasonable hours open to the inspection of any gentleman or lady who may think proper to visit them, who are also requested to write their observations in a book kept in every school for the purpose; and the several masters are required, under pain of dismission, to return true copies of such observations, once in every quarter.

The words of the original charter do not restrain the admission of children to any particular sect. It appears, however, that by two resolutions of general boards, one holden on the 15th day of March 1775, and the other on the 4th day of December 1776, the admission of children was for a long time almost entirely confined to such as were of popish parents. But this practice not appearing to be warranted by the charter, those resolutions were at a general board, holden on the 4th day of May 1803, unanimously rescinded; and since that period, all children who appeared to be proper objects, have been admitted, without any distinction on account of the religious profession of their parents, excepting only into the two Ranelagh schools of Ab-

lone and Roscommon, which were endowed for the education of poor Protestants only, and the Lintown factory, near Kilkenny, the admission into which is restrained by the will of the founder to children of Popish parents.

The age of admission into the nurseries, is from four to six, into the schools from six to ten; the children are kept in the schools until they are apprenticed. There are printed forms of application for admission, which must be signed by the parents, if alive, and in Ireland, and if not, by the nearest of kin in whose care the child is. When the parents applying are of the Popish persuasion, it is distinctly stated to them, that their child, if received into the care of the society, will be educated in the Protestant religion, and unless the parents unequivocally express their full approbation, admission is refused. Parents and relations are allowed at all times to visit their children, except in the Dublin schools, where the applications were so frequent, that it was found necessary to fix a particular day in each week for the purpose. The restriction which required that the master or mistress should be present at these interviews, is not generally enforced, unless some improper conduct on the part of the parent require it. Children are sometimes returned to their parents, where it is ascertained to the satisfaction of the Society, that, from change in the circumstances of the parents it is likely to be of advantage to the child to be so returned; the general rule is, that in such cases the parent shall reimburse the society the expenses which have been incurred: but this rule is in all proper cases dispensed with. Applications for the restoration of children are not numerous. At present, admission into the schools is generally the subject of earnest solicitation, and no effort is required on the part of the society to fill their schools and nurseries.

The children under the care of the society are fed by contract with the masters; and in all the nurseries and schools, excepting three, are also clothed by contract. Though some well-founded objections may be alleged against this system, yet, from the nature of the institution, it seems the only practicable method that can be adopted; and the society have provided checks against peculation and abuses. From the reports of the visitors lately employed by us to inspect these schools, it may be inferred, that these contracts are at present faithfully executed, as it appears that the children in general were healthy and well clad. The rate of the contract for feeding is generally four pence per head *per diem*, in the schools and nurseries in the country; and it varies from five pence to five pence three farthings, in those in and near the city of Dublin. The contract for clothing is two pounds four shillings for each boy, and one pound nineteen shillings for each girl. The dietary is set forth in the appendix to this report. Bedsteads and bedding, and all the necessary furniture of the school houses, are supplied by the society.

The children are removed, or, as the society terms it, transplanted from the nurseries to schools, and from one school to another. The three general causes for transplantation are:

1st. The necessity of removing children from nurseries to schools, which ought regularly to be done when the children in the former attain the age of seven or eight years.

2dly. The equable distribution of children among the several schools of the establishment; for, a great proportion of the whole number being admitted in Dublin, it becomes frequently necessary to remove them from the schools in the neighbourhood of the capital, and to send them to others where there happen to be vacancies made by children who have been apprenticed. Similar circumstances frequently require the removal of children from one country school to another.

3dly. The interference of parents with respect to the religion of their children. The avowed object of the society being to educate the children entrusted to its care in the established religion, whenever this object is likely to be interrupted by the interference of the parent, the child is removed from the neighbourhood of the parent's residence to a more distant

school. But this measure does not appear to be now often rendered necessary; and the two prevailing causes for removal appear to be the former, and to arise necessarily from the very nature of the establishment. It appears that great care is taken to prevent the health of the children from suffering by removals, which are, as far as is practicable, confined to the spring and summer season, and proper cars, with a covering to protect the children from the weather, but not to conceal them from public view, are provided for the purpose. It appears, however, that this frequent necessity for removal is a serious inconvenience, attended with trouble, risk, and expense, and that this inconvenience is greatly augmented by the existence of the nurseries.

The children in those schools are taught reading, writing and arithmetic, and instructed in the principles of the Protestant religion, as by law established. The books used are set forth in the appendix. In this list was found till very lately the catechism entitled, "The Protestant Catechism;" but this formula of instruction, justly liable to exception, has been wholly discontinued in all the schools, by a late order of the society. The Holy Scriptures are not only read, but made the subject of exposition, and the foundation of religious instruction; and the proficiency which many of the children have obtained in useful and practical knowledge derived from this service, appears from the reports of our visitors to be highly gratifying and satisfactory. In the school of Clontarf for boys, and of Baggot-street for girls, it appears that a class has been established under the direction of the society, to be instructed in such a course as may qualify them for the situations of assistants, in these and other schools: the experiment seems to have been already attended with success, and, if well followed up, may be productive of considerable advantage to general education. With respect to industry, the labour of the children (subject to the rules of the society as to the time allotted for education, meals, refreshment, and play) is at present at the disposal of the several masters, who are charged at the rate of twenty shillings per annum, on three-fourths of the children under their care; one fourth being supposed, from youth and occasional infirmity, to be incapable of productive industry. Their employments are various, and in some schools appear to be judiciously conducted. But in this department there seems to be room for much improvement.

The children educated in the Charter Schools are apprenticed to Protestant masters only. A list is kept in every school, and returned to the society once in every quarter, signed by the Catechist of such children, who from age, advancement in learning and religious knowledge, are fit to be apprenticed. When the boys are apprenticed to trades, the master is allowed a fee of five guineas; and when girls, a fee of seven guineas, payable at the periods, and subject to the restrictions set forth in the appendix. When children are apprenticed as servants, no fee is payable. Both boys and girls are entitled to receive a bounty of three guineas at the end of their apprenticeships, provided they produce a certificate from their masters or mistresses of faithful service, and from the clergyman of the parish in which they are resident, of continuance in the Protestant religion. All children apprenticed are supplied with a set of books, and when the indentures are signed, a letter is written by the secretary, in the name of the society, to the clergyman of the parish in which the master or mistress resides, requesting his attention to their conduct, and to that of the apprentice, particularly as to his attendance upon the public duties of religion; and that he will report, as occasion may require, to the committee of fifteen. When children are apprenticed in Dublin, there is also, in addition to the written testimonial required in all cases, a previous inspection and inquiry into the situation, circumstances, and character of the master, before the child is bound. Notwithstanding these precautions, which do not appear to have been attended with the desired success, we are concerned to state, that it appears from a return made to us, and given, in Appendix No. 1. that

large proportion of the masters of children apprenticed, do not receive the last part of their apprentice-fee, and of the children, the bounty for faithful service; and it was not until the last year, that the committee of fifteen, in order to ascertain what became of their apprentices, have employed a person to inquire into the state of the children now serving their time in the neighbourhood of the several schools out of which they were bound. Reports have already been received of one thousand and twenty-one apprentices. It appears, that during the last seven years, there have been apprenticed to trades nine hundred and five boys and girls, and to services four hundred and forty-six; total 1351: average of each year 193. And the number of children received into the several schools and nurseries, during the last seven years, have been two thousand six hundred and nineteen; average of each 374. And the average number of children maintained and educated in these schools during the last seven years has been two thousand and ninety-three, of which number 1289 were boys, and 804 were girls; and the number under the care of the society on the 29th of September 1808, was two thousand two hundred and fifty-one, of which number 1360 were boys, and 891 girls. The average annual expenditure of the society for the last seven years, has been thirty thousand one hundred and fifty-seven pounds fifteen shillings and sixpence, including every expense of feeding, clothing, education, salaries, repairs of buildings, and new buildings, bounties, apprentice fees, and marriage portions; dividing this by 2093, the average number of children maintained and educated, it appears that the average annual expense of each child to the institution, has been fourteen pounds eight shillings and two pence. And as the average time which each child remains under the care of the society, is stated to us to be seven years, it follows, that each child costs the society, from the period of admission to the close of his apprenticeship, the sum of one hundred pounds seventeen shillings and two pence.

The present state and condition of the charter schools, in every respect, will appear by the reports of the visitors employed by us, and hereunto annexed; and also by a report from the Lord Bishop of Derry, who kindly undertook to visit three of the most remote northern schools, viz. Ray, Ballycastle, and Ballykelly, which report is also subjoined, and which contains his Lordship's sentiments as to the means of their improvement. It was conceived, that any information which we could derive upon this subject from persons concerned in the management of the institution in any of its departments, might be liable to exception; it was therefore determined to employ persons whose characters entitled them to the confidence of this board, to make an actual survey or inspection of all the schools. For this purpose, the Rev. Dr. Beaufort, and Mr. Corneille, our secretary, were selected; and their reports, together with that of the Bishop of Derry, contain a statement founded on actual survey of all the schools and nurseries. They correspond in the main with the observations of members of this board, who have visited these schools, and we are satisfied, present a true and correct statement of their actual condition. The contrast they form with reports heretofore made of the state of those schools from unquestionable authority, is highly honourable to the late exertions of the committees of fifteen, who appear to have devoted themselves with equal zeal, ability and success, to their laborious and important duties. This contrast is calculated to excite an expectation, that a much higher degree of improvement is attainable, under a continuance of the same system. Without entering at present into the consideration how far the main purpose of the institution might be more effectually advanced upon a plan essentially different, we think it right to suggest those obvious points of improvement and correction, which arise out of a view of the documents and information laid before us. It appears:

First. That though the recent suppression of some ill situated and ill-conducted schools has been productive

of considerable advantage, the number and dispersion of the schools still remaining, renders the management of them complicated, and the inspection difficult.

2dly. That some of the schools still remaining are much too small; others unprovided with sufficient infirmaries, dining-halls, working rooms, and other necessary accommodations; and that one is without any endowment of land for the use of the school-master. That some of the school houses are not in a state of repair, and that it would require a considerable sum to place all the schools of the establishment in such thorough and perfect order, as would adapt them to answer the purposes of the institution.

3dly. That the provincial nurseries being in their original plan and general arrangement, calculated chiefly for the reception of children of very tender years, the education of such children as are suffered to remain there after the age of eight years, cannot be so well attended to, as in schools where instruction and moral discipline are the principal objects.

4thly. That the regular removal of children at the proper age from nurseries to schools, is impracticable, as it depends upon the contingency of the schools within proper distance affording a sufficient number of vacancies at the seasons suited for removing them.

5thly. That the frequent transplantation of children is an evil, and greatly augmented in consequence of the number of schools, and the existence of the nurseries.

6thly. That no sufficient provision has been yet made for continuing the superintending care of the society over the children apprenticed; nor has there been any registry kept of their conduct and progress after leaving the schools, except so far as can be collected from the registry of apprentice fees and bounties paid.

7thly. That the reports of local committees in general are not implicitly to be depended on, and that some additional provisions for inspecting and reporting the state of these schools from time to time seems to be indispensably necessary.

8thly. That the society have laboured under considerable difficulty in carrying repairs and alterations of buildings into execution in several places, and that wasteful and injudicious expenditure has been the necessary consequence, in spite of all the vigilance and caution that could be exercised by the committee in Dublin.

9thly. That the establishment called The Dublin Nursery, in Charlemount-street, is an inadequate one; and that the infirmary for the diseased of all the schools, attached to the school of Clontarf, ought to be wholly separated from it, and made a distinct establishment.

10thly. That in general the labour of the children is not as judiciously disposed of as it might be wished; that the system in this respect is defective and calls for improvement.

In thus enumerating the points in which improvement seems to be called for, we do not mean to impute any blame to the governing body; much solid improvement has been effected in the face of many difficulties, and in a short space of time; and it is to be expected, that in the management of a complicated system, involving not education only, but the clothing and maintenance of above two thousand two hundred children, scattered in thirty-nine different establishments, and the regulating the concerns of a very extensive landed and funded property, some points should have escaped the vigilance and baffled the effects of the committees of fifteen.

The defects above enumerated suggest the proper remedies:

1st. That such schools as are too small, scantily endowed with land, inconvenient in point of situation or accommodation, and out of repair, should be suppressed, as soon as accommodation can be provided for the children therein contained, by the enlargement of schools, better adapted in every respect to answer the purposes of the institution.

2dly. That the establishments now called nurseries, namely, those of Monsterevan, Monivea, and Shannongrove, be converted into schools, in which education and industry shall be the principal objects; from which

essential points the attention of the superintendants is now necessarily diverted by the care required in the management of the health of a number of small children.

3dly. That in order to carry this measure into effect, no children be henceforth admitted till they have attained the age of six years.

4thly. That visitors be henceforth employed by the society, as well to inspect the state of the schools as often as may appear to be necessary, as to inquire into and report upon the state of the children who have been apprenticed.

5thly. That a registry be kept of the situation, conduct, and progress of the children apprenticed, founded upon those reports, so as henceforward to present, as far as possible, an accurate view of the progress of each child, to the termination of its apprenticeship.

6thly. That the alterations, additions and improvements that may be projected, and the general superintendance of the buildings of the society, in future, be placed under the direction of one or more competent architects; and that all future alterations and additions to the buildings of the society be founded on reports to be received from persons qualified and employed for the purpose, and not merely on local information transmitted.

7thly. That with a view to the improvement of the children in industry, it may perhaps be adviseable, that in some schools labour should be made more peculiarly the object than in others; that the employments to be pursued in each school (and which might be more diversified than at present) should be settled by the society, on consideration of its particular circumstances and situation; that to excite the industry of the children, some part of their earnings should be allotted to their use; and in some schools, such as Clontarf, near Dublin, some additional branches of instruction, as for example, mathematics, surveying, and navigation, &c. might with advantage be introduced. The detail of arrangements by which such improvements are to be carried into effect, must be left to the discretion of the governing body of the society, and would be much facilitated by the reduction of the number of schools already recommended.

8thly. That with a view to direct the public attention continually to these schools, and their progress, we recommend that annual reports on their state and progressive improvement, should be made by the society to the Lord Lieutenant, or to the Board of Education, so long as it may continue to exist.

The wretched state of these schools, at the period when Mr. Howard visited them, appears from his report, which was confirmed by the evidence taken before the former commissioners of education, and by reports drawn up by some members of that board. What degree of prosperity the institution may have attained to at an earlier period of its existence, before the zeal which gave birth to it had in any degree subsided, we have not been able accurately to ascertain. Probably at its commencement, and for some years after, it was in a much more flourishing state than at later periods; but it is certain that from the period of Mr. Howard's report, till some time after the rebellion of 1798 (though some defects might have been remedied in consequence of Mr. Howard's statements, and the investigation of a committee of the House of Commons in Ireland) no considerable reformation had taken place in the state of these schools. For about the last mentioned year, and for some time after, it appears that most of the buildings were in a very ruinous condition, and some of the schools in a state of great neglect and disorder; and they appear to have sunk into this condition from several causes:

1st. Too much caution and reserve as to expenditure, proceeding probably in part from alarm excited by the situation of public affairs.

2dly. The too general supineness of local committees, or their mistaken lenity in forbearing to report on the misconduct of masters.

3dly. The difficulty of procuring a sufficiently constant and regular at-

tendance of the committees of fifteen in Dublin; for the duties of this office requiring time and labour, there have been certainly periods when the business of the society in Dublin has experienced considerable interruption, and the general discipline of the schools has been relaxed in consequence. Their present state of improvement is to be attributed principally to the zeal and exertions of the several successive committees of fifteen, of late years, as already remarked; and it may be here proper to observe, that their prosperity can subsist no longer than while the same causes continue to operate with the same energy. The means by which (in addition to the effects resulting necessarily from a regular discharge of the ordinary business of the society) this improvement has been effected, appear to be chiefly the following:

1st. A just but necessary severity in the dismission of masters and mistresses, on the discovery of neglect and abuse.

2dly. The establishment of a committee for the purpose of examining into the qualifications of masters, mistresses, and assistants to the schools.

3dly. A more liberal expenditure in the allowances to the several masters, &c. on the contracts for cloathing and feeding the children, and in the article of repairs, alterations, and additions to buildings.

4thly. The employment of an inspector sent from Dublin to all the schools of the Society. It appears that this person was originally employed to instruct the children in psalmody; but, in consequence of frequent judicious and useful remarks communicated by him, the committee of fifteen were induced to enlarge his commission to a general inspection of several of the schools, and of the children apprenticed from them. The benefits resulting from this partial adoption of the system of inspection, confirms us in our expectation of the advantages that may result from its establishment upon a more liberal and extended scale.

Whilst we warmly and sincerely applaud the pious and patriotic efforts of those who contributed to the establishment, and laboured for the success of this institution, we feel ourselves bound to state, that during a very considerable period of its existence, it appears to have fallen short of attaining the purposes for which it was established, and to have failed of one great object, that was intended and expected from it—the conversion of the lower orders of the inhabitants of Ireland from the errors of Popery. The utter inadequacy of the institution in point of magnitude and extent, for that object, is sufficient to account for this failure, independently of the operation of other causes. The number of Popish children in all the schools at any one time has probably never amounted to sixteen hundred; and this must have borne so small a proportion to the whole number to be educated, as to have had no sensible influence on the great mass of population, even allowing, that all who were educated in these schools, continued in the Protestant persuasion; this however is certainly not the fact; and though it is impossible to ascertain the number of those who have returned to the Popish persuasion, there is reason to believe that it has not been inconsiderable. But, there is another important end of the institution which has always been answered by it, to a certain extent, and appears at this time to be attained in a very high degree indeed—the instruction of so great a number of poor and destitute children, bringing them up to habits of industry, and qualifying and enabling them to become useful members of society; advantages of peculiar importance in a country abounding in population, and where no general public fund is provided for relieving the distresses of the poor. It is in this point of view, we cannot but recommend the institution as deserving the continuance of that legislative patronage and support which it has so long enjoyed: and we are persuaded, that if the zeal now so happily excited for the general advancement of moral and religious education of the poor, and which has already produced such salutary effects, shall continue to operate in

giving full efficacy to the measures recommended in this report, the most beneficial consequences may be expected to result to this part of the empire. It appears that the reluctance of Popish parents to commit their children to the care of the society, seems to have considerably subsided. Constant instances occur, of earnest solicitations by Popish parents for the admission of their children into these schools, few of applications for their being returned. The prejudice, which formerly existed against them in a much greater degree than at present, was probably augmented by the disrepute into which several of the schools had deservedly fallen, by the society having, contrary to the letter, as well as the spirit of the original charter, confined the admission of children almost exclusively to those born of Popish parents, and thus given it the appearance of an institution established solely for the purpose of conversion to the Protestant religion; and by exaggerated notions of the course of instruction pursued. Such impressions will assuredly abate in proportion to the confidence that must result from general good management, from the liberal principles by which admission is now regulated, and from the society having removed a well-founded objection to the course of religious education, by the discontinuance of the formula, called "The Protestant Catechism."

On the subject of the consolidation of the schools, which we have recommended to a certain extent, we are aware that many important ends of the institution might perhaps be more effectually attained in four great establishments, each containing from five to six hundred children; the management would thus be rendered more simple, the superintendance more easy and efficient, the expense considerably smaller, and the field for improvement more extensive. The methods for conducting such establishments, which have been of late years so happily introduced, are a great additional advantage; and if the whole institution were now to be begun, would probably determine us to give them a decided preference. but we are restrained by the consideration, that such a paln would involve the abandonment of almost all the present establishments and buildings connected with them (on some of which considerable sums have been lately expended) as well as of the endowments of land annexed to them resepectively; that several of the present schools were actually founded in consequence of donations or bequests to the society expressly appropriated to their support, and which we are therefore clearly of opinion ought not to be given up; that the erection of four great schools on the plan alluded to would be attended with a great immediate expense, in addition to that of supporting the present schools, till they were completed: And we cannot but bear in mind, that the original object of the whole institution of the charter schools was to afford the opportunity and advantage of Protestant education to as many districts as possible. We are therefore of opinion, that a considerable number of the present schools should be retained, and that as well in retaining those as in suppressing others, regard should be had not only to the convenience of their situation for forming larger and more useful establishments, but also to the extent of their influence in encouraging and diffusing the Protestant religion.

With repect to the rules of the society annexed to this report (see Appendix, No. 5.) they are several of them of long standing, and some of them inconsistent with the principles on which the institution is now conducted. This inconsistency points out the necessity of a revision of these rules, with a view to the omission of all such as are obsolete in practice; and we have recommended such revision to the society accordingly.

Council Chamber, Dublin Castle.
December 29th, 1808.

Wm. Armagh. (L. S.) Jas. Verschoyle, Dean of
Chas. Dublin. (L. S.) St Patrick's, (L. S.)
G. Hall, Provost. (L. S.) Jas. Whitelaw. (L. S.)
Wm. Disney. (L. S.) R. L. Edgeworth, (L. S.)

A correct copy.

JOHN CORNELLE.
Sec. to the Commissioners.

We have now given entire, the three Reports from the Board of Education. We design hereafter, to make some extracts from the voluminous Appendix. For our next number we are promised a review of these Reports,

taking a comprehensive view of the state of education in Ireland, and the necessity of a reform in the management of the funds allotted to it; and contrasting the little good done by the large funds in Ireland, with the great advantages accruing from the well managed and economical plan of parish schools in Scotland.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

ON the authority of the Gentleman's Almanack, for the year 1789, I took the number of parishes in Ireland at 2293, and stated the sum requisite accordingly at 120,000*l.* and allowing this variation between the old and new Almanacks to arise from the former, considering every *united* parish as one, and the latter as two or three, my original calculation will be still correct. But even granting the incorrectness of the old, and the correctness of the new Almanacks, taking the number of parishes at 2436, and allowing the visitors one pound for each school, actually visited, still would the sum of 130,000*l.* be fully adequate to meet all the expenses of this great national object,...*the civil and moral instruction of the people of Ireland.* I thank Quinctius for the above correction and for his well-timed hint in regard to charter-schools. The sum of 30,000*l.* procured by melting down the charter-schools, &c. into this scheme, not to mention the useless waste of the public money on endowed schools, would reduce the sum requisite to be levied off the nation for this great national purpose, to 100,000*l.* In one of his calculations he has, however, misunderstood my plan: he has added the expense of building to the first year's endowment, whereas my plan devotes the first year's endowment to the building, and the first year's visitation to the establishing of the various schools, which were to commence the year following, and to be afterwards conducted without any interruption or confusion.

I must also differ with Quinctius in the sum requisite for building the school houses. Many of these are already built in convenient situations, and in this case, the first year's endowment is sufficient for the house, and permanent establishment of a master. And the sale of those that are not in centrical situations, will contribute largely with the government grant to the establishment of school-houses in more convenient situations. The parochial grant is made discretionary, that it may depend on the abilities and public spirit of each parish, how much will be added to the *needful* grant of government for the comfortable support of the establishment. The preference of a married to a single man as a teacher, will of course strike every parochial committee as providing for the education of more scholars, and particularly of females, on the most effectual and most natural plan.

Quinctius will see that I confine the masters to the recommendation of *Christian morals*, contained in the scriptures, leaving the peculiar doctrines to their respective spiritual guides. And this liberty without licentiousness I consider one of the excellencies of the plan.

Another excellence, I had almost said perfection, of my plan is, that it prevents as much as possible the inroads of influence, corruption, and *sinecureism* in every department. The teacher's abilities, conduct, and exertions, are kept in constant check by at least three of a judicious parochial committee; that committee's attention, as well as that of the masters, by the county visitor, and the attention of the visitors, parochial committees, and masters, by the minuteness of the visitor's report to the supreme committee, by a sense of duty, and the paternal regard to be evinced in their annual report to the public. Their suggested improvements would again descend through the Established, Dissenting, and Catholic clergy to the visitors, the parochial committees, the masters, the parents, and the children. Thus would the ascending and descending report resemble the exhalations attracted from the grosser dregs of earth, that after passing through the great alembic of the atmosphere, and distilling their refined essence on the drooping herbage, continue the same incessant round of still renewing life to the produce of parent earth.

As to the triple stem of places and sinecures, I cannot suppose Quinctius

serious, since he virtually acknowledges, that it is as well fenced as possible against corruption and partiality. Against corruption, since the holding of every place in the system depends upon *constant* individual exertion, and since every district's endowment for any year depends upon the attention of the parochial committee that year. And against partiality, since the three churches are properly *balanced* and *united* in the grand object. I am much gratified by the approbation manifested by your Correspondent, signed G. and by the arguments adduced in affirmance of the necessity of a radical reform in the education of the people. This I have particular reason to expect, from a distinguished member of the House of Commons. SIMPLEX.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

ESSAY ON PRINTING.

GENTLEMEN,

AS the history and nature of *Stereotype* printing is not generally understood, I beg leave to trouble you with a few observations on that subject. I have borrowed my information from the best authorities; and with a view of rendering my short essay more complete, I have also given an abstract of whatever appeared to me most interesting on the subject of printing in general. Should you consider it adapted to the objects of your useful Miscellany, your insertion of it will oblige, A.Z.

It is probable that we are indebted for the valuable art of printing to the Chinese. At least it is certain, that it was practised in China, long before it was known in Europe. Some European traveller might have perceived the improvement, and introduced it into the Western world. It is singular that the Romans did not practise printing, as they appear to have been really in possession of the art. They used stereotypes for stamping their pottery; and it is really surprizing, that they should not have thought of extending the art to literary productions.

Three towns of Europe claim the honour of the invention of printing; Haerlem, Strasburg, and Mentz. It is generally allowed, however, that Guttemberg was the inventor of the art of printing with moveable types, that he commenced at Strasburg and perfected the art at Mentz.—The names of the other candidates for this honour are, John Faust, of Mentz; John Mental, of Strasburg, and L. John Koster, of Haerlem.—When Mentz was taken by Adolphus, in 1462, the printers of that city were involved in the general loss and sufferings which their townsmen experienced; and dispersing with a view of bettering their fortunes, the art of printing was thus diffused over Europe.

When it was first established at Paris, a memorial was presented by the copiers of that city, praying the parliament to consider how materially their business was injured by the printers, and to grant them redress. That tribunal infected with the superstition of the times, conceived the printers to be conjurers, and had proceeded to seize and confiscate their property, had they not been prevented by Louis XI. who, notwithstanding his bad qualities, was the friend and patron of literature.

The art of printing was practised at Rome so early as the year 1467, and soon after in England, under the auspices of Bourchier, archbishop of Canterbury. That prelate sent out W. Turner, master of the robes, and W. Caxton, merchant, to the Continent, to learn the art. These ingenious gentlemen met with one Corseilles, an underworkman, whom they prevailed upon, by handsome presents, and large promises, to come over to England and instruct them in the art. Immediately a press was set up at Oxford, which was afterwards removed to St. Albans, and to Westminster Abbey. Another account states, that Caxton was sent in 1464, by Edward IV. to negociate a commercial treaty with the Duke of Burgundy, and that he learned the art of printing, during his residence on the Continent. It is certain, that though a merchant, he possessed a literary taste, and his first work was a translation from a French historical miscellany.

The tradition of the devil and Dr. Faustus, originated from the peculiar

circumstances in which that printer was placed. Having acquired a knowledge of the art, he printed off a considerable number of copies of the bible, imitating as was customary in those times, those which were commonly in use in manuscript, and exposed them for sale in Paris. It was his interest to conceal the discovery, and to endeavour to pass off his copies for manuscripts. But the low price at which he was enabled to sell his bibles excited universal astonishment. While the Scribes demanded five hundred crowns for their copies, he demanded for his only sixty, and afterwards but thirty; while at the same time, he was able to furnish copies, as fast as they were wanted. These things, together with the great uniformity apparent in his bibles, could not fail to agitate the public mind, and subject the printer to the persecutions of an ignorant and superstitious magistracy. Accordingly, informations were lodged against him as a magician; his rooms were searched, and all the copies on hand seized. The red ink with which he embellished his copies was said to be his blood, and it was solemnly adjudged that he was in league with the devil. To save himself from the stake, Faust was obliged to discover his art to the parliament at Paris, who pardoned him, on account of the utility of the invention.

When the art of printing was yet in its infancy, they made use of only one side of a leaf. Specimens of these early printed books, are to be seen in his majesty's, and lord Spencer's libraries. In some instances they pasted the two blank pages together, which made the two leaves appear as one. The printers at first made use of blocks of soft wood, on which their letters were carved. But these being continually liable to break, moveable types, which has produced a most astonishing rapidity of execution, were soon invented.

In superior editions, they omitted to print the first letter of a chapter, for which they left a blank space, that it might be illuminated, at the pleasure of the purchaser. What was called *illuminating* was merely daubing the letters, with which they filled the blank spaces, with colours, that they might have a more showy and brilliant effect. These are very coarse and inelegant, but were much esteemed in early times.

Religious books of all kinds, were at an early period, printed in the most splendid style. Prayer-books, in particular, were embellished with cuts of superior elegance; though many of them exhibited figures, ludicrous, and even obscene. In one of them, an angel is represented as crowning the virgin Mary, and God himself assisting at the ceremony.—In others, St. Michael is seen overcoming Satan; and sometimes St. Anthony appears attacked by various devils of the most hideous forms.—Specimens these, of the superstitious mummery which distinguishes the annals of these early times.

Soon after the art of printing was discovered, learned men took a pride in being correctors of the press to eminent printers. Men in all the learned professions crowded to the press, and vied with one another in the correctness of the editions which they published. To recommend their books, the printers usually annexed the name of the corrector of the press, and editions were held in estimation, according to his supposed abilities.

Robert Stephens, one of the early printers, excelled in the correctness of his editions. It was his ambition to render his works immaculate; and with a view to this, it is said, that he hung up proofs for the inspection of the public, and offered rewards to those who should discover any typographical errors.

Plantius, though a man of letters, is yet more distinguished as a printer. His printing office is said to have been one of the wonders of Europe. The building was exceedingly magnificent and was the chief ornament of the city of Antwerp. Outwardly the eye was astonished at the splendour of the edifice; and within, not less, by the prodigious number of presses, characters of all figures and sizes, without number, matrixes to cast letters, and all other printing materials, beyond calculation; the value of the concern, Baillet assures us, was immense.

Many eminent printers have ap-

peared in more modern times; though, which is to be regretted, our publishers are rarely now as they were formerly, literary men. Robert and Andrew Foulis, of Glasgow, were indeed men of letters, and printers of high reputation. They were printers to the university; and their editions of the classics, and of some of our best English writers, are deservedly esteemed, for their elegance and correctness. Type-founding having now reached a most astonishing pitch of perfection, which with the excellence of the printing materials, the advantages of the finest wove paper, than which nothing can be conceived more beautiful, and of the hot press, the London printers appear to have arrived at the utmost perfection of the typographic art. Indeed they perhaps employ a style of elegance that is superfluous or even prejudicial; for in consequence of the style in which their editions are printed and embellished, they are swelled to a most evtravagant expense, and can be purchased only by public libraries, or gentlemen of fortune.

"One of the most egregious, shall we add illustrious of all literary blunders," says an anonymous writer, "is that of the edition of the Vulgate, by Pope Sixtus, V. His holiness carefully superintended every sheet, as it passed through the press; and to the amazement of the world, the work remained without a rival. It swarmed with errata! A multitude of scraps were printed to paste over the erroneous passages, in order to give the true text. The book makes a whimsical appearance, with these pasted corrections, and the heretics exulted in this demonstration of papal infallibility. The copies were called in, and violent attempts made to suppress it; however, a few remain for the rapturous gratification of the biblical collectors. At a late sale, the bible of Sixtus, V. fetched above sixty guineas; not too much for a mere book of blunders! The world was highly amused at the bull of the Pope and editor, prefixed to the first volume, which excommunicates all printers, &c. who in reprinting the work, should make any alteration in the text."

It is said of a printer's widow in Germany, that while a new edition of the Bible was printing at her office, she made a remarkable alteration in Genesis iii, 16, she substituted the word *Narr* for *Herr*; thus making the sentence, instead of, "and he shall be thy *Lord*," "and he shall be thy *Fool*." This indiscretion, it is said, cost her her life: though this bible was afterwards esteemed so valuable, that some secreted copies were bought up at enormous prices.

There was an edition of the bible printed at the Clarendon press, in 1717, known by the name of the *Vinegar Bible*, in consequence of a typographical error in Luke 10, where, in the title to the chapter, in place of the word vineyard, the word *vinegar*, was introduced.

Another edition of the bible was printed in England, in which, in the seventh commandment, the important word *not* was by mistake omitted.—In consequence of this blunder, the Archbishop of Canterbury, laid a heavier penalty on the company of Stationers, than was ever known in the annals of literary history.

In an article on printing, written for the Belfast Magazine, it is impossible to pass over without a remark, the state of printing in this part of the United Kingdom. In Dublin a becoming spirit of emulation has lately manifested itself, and several works lately printed in that city evidence considerable improvement in the art. But I conceive, that the taste and elegance of the town of Belfast is in this respect superior even to those of the metropolis. Robinson's Poems, Drummond's Battle of Trafalgar, and the Fasciculi of the Belfast Literary Society, want nothing but the hot press to recommend them to the attention of the most fastidious critic.

It remains for me to make some observations on *Stereotype* printing, a method lately adapted in England, and France; especially as it is not used, or generally known, in this part of the united kingdom.

Though lately introduced, stereotype printing appears to have been the most ancient method of printing known in the world. The method of stamping figures of various kinds on linen and paper, has been known

in the east, beyond the memory of man; so that it is not a little surprizing, that the stereotype should not have been much sooner introduced, for the printing of books in Europe.

The history of this admirable invention, is like that of common printing, involved in some obscurity. The following extract from Tilloch's Philosophical Magazine, seems to throw light on the subject.

"Above an hundred years ago, the Dutch were in possession of the art of printing with solid or fixed types, which in every respect, was superior to that of Didot's stereotype. It may, however, be readily comprehended, that their letters were not cut in so elegant a manner; especially when we reflect on the progress which typography has made since that period. Samuel & J. Leuchtmans, booksellers at Leyden, have still in their possession the forms of a quarto bible, which were constructed in this ingenious manner. Many thousand impressions were thrown off which are in every body's hands, and the letters are still good.

"The inventor of this useful art was J. Vander Mey, father of the well-known printer of that name. About the end of the sixteenth century, he resided at Leyden. With the assistance of Muller, the minister of the German congregation there, who carefully superintended the corrections, he prepared and cast the plates for the abovementioned quarto bible. This bible he published also in folio, with large margins, ornamented with figures: the forms of which are still in the hands of Eleve, bookseller at Amsterdam; also an English new Testament, and Schoof's Syriac Dictionary, the forms of which were melted down; likewise a small Greek Testament, in 18mo.

"As far as is known, Vander Mey printed nothing else in this manner, and the art of preparing solid blocks was lost at his death, or at least, was not afterwards employed."

It appears from a curious and interesting pamphlet published by Nichols of London, in 1781, entitled Biographical Memoirs of William Ged, that that printer had made some progress in stereotype printing. Mr. Ged began to prosecute this art in 1725. After a variety of disappointments, occasioned chiefly by the want of spirit and honesty in his partners, he returned to Edinburgh, where a specimen of stereotype printing was in a short time published by subscription. An edition of Sallust was published in 1736. Not only a copy of this work, but even a plate of one of the pages is in possession of Mr. Tilloch, who has likewise a copy of another small work, from plates cast by the same artist. The book is Scongal's Life of God, in the Soul of Man, 12mo. purporting to have been printed at Newcastle, in 1742, from plates made by William Ged, goldsmith in Edinburgh.

About 1775, Mr. Tilloch, professes having made a discovery of stereotype, without having had any knowledge of Ged's invention. In the course of his labours he was assisted by Mr. Foulis, printer to the university of Glasgow. These gentlemen took out patents for England and Scotland, and several small works were stereotyped and printed under their direction. Mr. Tilloch, however, having removed from Glasgow to London, the proprietors did not farther avail themselves of their patents, and the business was entirely discontinued.

It is not a little singular, that the French should claim the merit of this invention, though it was not till several years after, that Didot, a celebrated French printer, applied the stereotype to logarithmic tables, and several of the Latin classics.

Some years after Mr. Tilloch had relinquished the prosecution of stereotype printing, Mr. Wilson, an eminent printer of London, determined, with the assistance of Earl Stanhope, to do every thing that was possible, in order to bring this art to perfection, and to establish it in this country. On this occasion, it is said, that the Earl availed himself of the instructions of Mr. Tilloch and Mr. Foulis. After two year's application, Mr. Wilson announced to the public, that the happiest success had crowned their exertions, and that the art of printing was now brought to a pitch of the most unexampled perfection. Every thing, he says, is so admirably contrived, that the most beautiful simplicity is con-

bined with the most desirable economy, and he looks forward to the happy period, when an application of this valuable art to the manufacture of books, will be the means of reducing the prices of all standard books at least thirty, and in many cases fifty per cent.

In January, 1804, Mr. Wilson proposed the adoption of this valuable improvement to the university of Cambridge, for printing bibles, testaments, and prayer-books, on terms, which with the approbation of Earl Stanhope, who declined accepting any remuneration for his valuable services, were highly advantageous to Mr. Wilson. An engagement was made—but some differences afterwards arising the contract was dissolved.

There is a book lately published in England, on stereotype printing, from which the curious reader may derive information. It is entitled, "An Account of the method of casting Stereotype, as practised by Charles Brightley, of Bungary, Suffolk, with a stereotype, metal plate." Not having yet seen this work, I can only give the following general account. When a work is to be stereotyped, the pages are set up in the ordinary way, with moveable types, and when they are made as correct as possible, a cast is taken from each, to serve as a mould for the stereotype plate. Into this, of course, the metal is poured, and thus is formed the solid stereotype plate, which is to be used at the press.

Mr. Wilson alleges, that a very great saving of cost is produced by this newly invented mode. He gives a computation, showing the expenditure by both methods of printing, on composition, reading, wear of type, and charges of composition; and on paper, press-work, charges on press-work, and insurance; and concludes that there is nearly fifty per cent saved by the new method. Besides this, as every page of the most extensive work has a separate plate, all the pages must be equally new and beautiful, whereas in printing with moveable types, this cannot be the case, as it is necessary to distribute and recompose them, several times, in the course of a large work.

As to the security from error which is alleged as an advantage peculiar to the stereotype, it is altogether a mistake. The moveable types, which are set up for the printing of any book, may exhibit an impression as correct as the stereotype, provided equal care has been taken to correct the proof-sheets, in the one case as in the other. After Mr. Wilson disagreed with the university of Cambridge, he published, in stereotype, a pamphlet entitled, "Arbitration between the University of Cambridge, and Andrew Wilson." And though it is to be supposed that every possible care was taken to render this work correct, it yet contains several errata. The work consists of only forty-four pages, and yet several inaccuracies may be observed; as in the forty-first page, *viod* for *void*, &c. Indeed it is evident, on the slightest consideration, that it is not possible that first editions of works should be more correct when stereotyped, than when printed in the common way; and then it is besides worthy of remark, that errors in stereotype must be perpetuated through all subsequent editions.

"In short," says a respectable writer, "we think that the stereotype art has much the advantage of common printing, in standard books, of very extensive circulation, and constant demand, and wherein no alteration, as to plan or size, is ever allowed to take place; but for the common and most general purposes of the art of printing, the method by moveable types is incomparably the best."

I have heard an ingenious printer say, that the stereotype printers had no advantage over him, when he was able to keep his types standing. But then it is to be considered, how disadvantageous it is, to have so many types as are required for a book of any considerable size, occupied in a work, of which an edition is wanted, perhaps only every second year. This would be much more expensive than the purchase of stereotype plates for any work, supposing that they should ever come to be manufactured for general use. This would be an extension of the art, highly to be desired. For, the moulds for the plates being once formed, the casting of these plates, on the supposition of a considerable demand, must be a matter of very moderate trouble and expense.

The books that have been printed in stereotype are very beautiful, and equally correct as the best editions of books printed in the ordinary mode. But as it would seem that there is no great saving of expense by the new method, it has as yet been only very partially adopted.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A DIALOGUE BETWEEN A DOCTOR, HIS PATIENT, AND A WHISKEY DISTILLER.

Doctor.

GOOD morning, Mr. A. how do you do this morning?

Patient. Indeed, dear Doctor, I feel but very indifferent, my stomach much out of order, my hand trembles, and my appetite is quite gone.

Dr. (Feels his pulse, puts his hand on his breast, &c.) Truly, dear Sir, your whole frame seems much out of tone, but I'll prescribe some medicines that will, I trust, be of great use. Ha! what is this on the side-board, that seems so fine and transparent?

P. Indeed Doctor that is an old acquaintance that you have often charged me to have less intimacy with; but I was so sickly, feeble, and thirsty this morning, that I could not refrain from taking a glass of my old friend, diluted with spring-water, otherwise, I am sure I would not have existed until now.

Dr. Ha, ha! (shaking his head, and putting on a very important look) so, so, good day, sir, good bye, farewell. Galen and Hypocrates, and all the ancient and all the modern physicians, doctors, quacks and apothecaries that ever existed, or at present do exist, are not able to save you from the grave, if you, contrary to my express directions, and injunctions, continue to hold up and maintain an intercourse and intimacy with your insidious and most potent and invincible enemy.

P. Stay, dear Doctor, stay a few minutes, I shall in future be guided entirely by your advice and directions. Ah, ah! I am very weak and feeble, feeble; (here a qualm seizes the patient and he almost faints.)

Distiller. Mr. Doctor, I have hitherto listened with much patience to your invectives against whiskey, which it ill becomes a gentleman of your talents and liberality of sentiments to utter, especially as the abuse of it is conducive to your emolument, but of this more may be said again.

It is as innocent of the crimes you lay to its charge, as a new-born infant. It was made and created for the use and health of man, in this damp and foggy, and rainy northern region; you know that the best and most nutritive solids or liquids taken to excess are frequently productive of gouts, fevers, rheumatisms, and a long catalogue of disorders that end in death.

Dr. Hold, hold, Mr. Distiller, who taught you the study of physic, and to enumerate the disorders incident to the human body?

Dist. With your good leave, dear, Doctor, you will permit me to proceed in the vindication of my liquor. I said that the excessive use of those good things brought on various disorders, that terminated in death. As to myself, do I ever force any person to use my liquor at all, hot or cold? are not all its votaries endued with common sense and free will; have they not power to partake of such a quantity of its exhilerating body as may be useful, without going further? You may prescribe to your patients bolusus, and crocuses metalorum, &c. in a certain quantity, but if by the ignorance of yourself, or boy, a double dose is administered, your patient is a dead man; he had no means of avoiding the blow. Not so with my friends, if they will be guilty of self-murder with their eyes open; let them be denied christian burial, let the priest only say, "dust to dust, ashes to ashes, earth to earth," and omit "in sure and certain hopes of a resurrection into life eternal."

P. Hold your peace Mr. Distiller, I have listened with too much patience to your harangue, in vindication of your liquor; no doubt some part of it is true, and some too shocking for a man in my situation to hear; do you deny your unfortunate victim, after in the guise of friendship, you have reduced him to a state of idiocity, and all the powers and faculties of his mind and body, into a state of inanity and disorder. Hand me that decanter, Doctor—(whirls it into the grate.) There, monster, I bid you an eternal adieu (whiskey takes fire, makes a great ex-

plosion ascends the chimney with the rapidity of lightning, and sets it on fire, a bustle ensues; however, the chimney is better cleaned than if a dozen of the sooty trade had by turns ascended) well, well, I am afraid I have been too hasty, throws himself back on his armed chair, in a languishing condition.

Dr. Indeed patient you have doubtless been rather violent in your proceedings. No wonder you should be agitated at the Distiller's defence, as the grog you have taken this forenoon has somewhat deranged your intellects; I am glad, however, that you have shown so much resentment. However, I do not mean to prevent you, at present, from a total use of your wonted enjoyment; you shall have one glass, that is half a naggin after dinner, and the like after supper, and no more, on pain of excommunication: (another decanter is set on the side board.)

Dist. I am rejoiced, Doctor, you have not excluded your patient entirely from the use of so necessary a cordial, so there is no danger of this bottle partaking the fate of its much lamented brother, who, even with his dying breath, has rendered your patient an essential service, by cleaning his chimney, which was foul as the Ægean stable. But I must observe to you, gentlemen, that if the use of my liquor was totally prohibited, the farmer, who is my steady friend and advocate, would be unable to pay his rents, the lord of the soil could not then purchase even the necessaries, not to say the luxuries of life; it is in vain to object against whiskey, because some tradesmen and labourers make an improper use of the comforts it affords. If the mechanics were duly sober and acquired an independence, would they toil and drudge at their respective occupations? If the labourer did not sink a part of his earnings in whiskey, think you he would continue to slave and cultivate the soil for the small pittance acquired by the most severe and constant toil? If our lads of spirit were not inpired by its means, would they with such ardour enlist in our fleets and armies, and rush with impetuosity, either to victory or to recline themselves, and sleep the sleep of death, on that large and adored bed, the bed of honour.

Dr. Stop, stop, Mr. Distiller, if you please, until I enumerate a few of the bad consequences that a close correspondence with your liquor has produced.

When we take into consideration some of the advantages attendant on those instances you have referred to, let us view the matter on the other side. If the landlord has set his farms at so exorbitant a rent, that unless the produce of the farmer's fields were converted into whiskey, the rent could not be paid, let him be more just and moderate in his demands. Instead of that, is it just or reasonable, or becoming, that the product of the best and richest of the farmer's land should be converted into your transparent and intoxicating liquor? If a farmer finds a redundancy of barley at market, can he not convert the produce of his best lands into crops of wheat, oats, clover, &c. which would render these indispensably necessary and useful articles in greater plenty, and consequently cause the poor as well as the rich to be supplied on lower terms; at the same time the farmer is abundantly recompensed for his toil. The argument concerning tradesmen and labourers is most fallacious, for we know by experience that such of them as are frugal, support their families better, and when their property begins to encrease, that such encrease gives a spur both to their industry and economy; whereas, when they are drunken and dissipated, their miserable families can scarce exist, they grow lazy, ill-natured and indolent, being filled with an excess, of the spirit, not of religion and virtue, but every thing of a contrary tendency.

As to the lads of spirit you mention, a bad education, early habits of vice and dissipation, render them averse to any mechanical or servile laborious employment. Hence by the wise permission of Providence, the lower orders of the military, and some in higher stations, are made, as it were, a circle of fire, to guard the sober and industrious of all orders in the state, who by the products of their exertions, pay for the subsistence of these guardians.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE COURT OF JUNO....A VISION.

"Non omnibus dormio."

HAVING promised an amiable young lady to write something in answer to a paper, with which most of the ladies have been displeased, inserted in the former numbers of the Belfast Magazine, I began to reflect one evening last week how this was to be done. I have ever made it a rule to perform scrupulously my promises to the ladies, but this being made rather hastily, I was not a little at a loss how to set about the task; sundry plans presented themselves to my imagination successively, and were in their turns dismissed, as deficient in some essential points. Wearied at last with reiterated comparisons, without any approach to selection, I at last fell asleep, and soon after, imagination seizing the reins which judgment had resigned, represented the night as already passed, and placed me in my parlour, engaged in some of the usual occupations of the day. A rap at the door shortly after announced the approach of visitors, and presently, to my surprize, four young ladies entered the room along with the lady above-mentioned. After the usual compliments were passed, they informed me, that there had been a meeting of the ladies of Ulster, to take into consideration the ill usage they had sustained in Jupiter's setting them up to auction; that as this auction still continued, and might do so for a long time, for aught they knew to the contrary, they had resolved to prevent it, by sending a message to Juno, to represent their case, and beg her assistance; but that as they had heard her usual residence was at a place called Samos, which was high up in the Levant sea, and was too far for ladies to travel to, they had agreed to entrust the commission to me; and as I had promised to assist their cause, they made it a point I should go. I urged many excuses, of its being a task I was not qualified for, that they would easily find a more competent ambassador, and many other pleas; but all in vain, every thing I could say was overruled, and go I must. A vessel was provided in the port, a prime sailer, with all sails set, all hands at their stations, lying too, waiting for the boat, then on shore, to take me in. Every necessary was provided aboard, so that I had nothing to do but step into the boat; the ladies did me the honour to accompany me to the water side, and on parting, wished me a good voyage, presenting me at same time with a large packet of instructions to read on the way.

The boat soon reached the ship, and we started with a fine gale over the quarter. I staid on deck as long as I could see the ladies, who continued waving their handkerchiefs in token of good wishes, till we passed the next headland.

The ocean now opened to my view, but as it presented no novelty I went below, to view the ship, and was greatly surprized to find it laid out and constructed in every respect according to plans I had often thought of, but this not relating to the chief point of the business, any farther notice of it may be omitted.

Shortly after we had lost sight of land, I heard a loud noise, as if all the mail coachmen in the three kingdoms were sounding their horns at once. On running up on deck to see what it might be, I was presented with the fine sight, often described in the ancient poets, of the whole court of Neptune bearing down on us from the windward, and found the noise to proceed from the Tritons sounding their shells as a signal for us to bring to.

We fired twenty-one rounds by way of salute, to old Ocean's monarch, who presently came round under our lee; the ladder was let down and manned, and he then marched up, accompanied by Amphitrite, and several of the sea goddesses. He asked us where we were bound, and the captain referring him to me, I told the nature of my embassy in as few words as possible; whereupon he smiled very graciously, declared he had always a peculiar veneration for the Irish ladies, and would further the business as much as he could, and instantly dispatched a Triton to Eolus, with positive orders to give us favourable winds the whole way, and at the same time darting his

trident into the sea, ordered it to smooth its waves, and lie still as we passed: he then called for pen and ink to write a letter to his brother Jupiter, to be forwarded from the court of Juno. I reminded him that the thunderer was then in Ireland, amusing himself with auctions; but he said that did not signify, he might be home before long; or, if not, if we gave the letter to Hebe it would do as well for what he wanted, as she kept the keys of the cellar.

Pens and ink being brought, he sat down to write his letter, and we took that opportunity to pay our respects to the goddesses; we handed them down to the cabin, and laid our best wines before them; but they hoped we would excuse them in asking for something stronger, on account of the cold nature of their element. We instantly opened our liquor cases on this for their accommodation, and Amphitrite drank very freely of ratifee, but the rest of the goddesses preferred cherry brandy.

Thetis being one of the number, and knowing that she was a great favourite with Jupiter, and was often at levee, I thought it a good opportunity to get some intelligence from her of the present politics of the court of Olympus: I accordingly requested some information on this head, which she gave with great affability and good-nature. She said that matters were greatly altered there since Homer's time. That all the gods and goddesses were now grown perfectly polite, and had entirely laid aside the coarse manners and vulgar language which was then in fashion. That Juno and Jupiter had separate establishments, and seldom met but on public occasions and state days, but then always behaved to each other with the greatest civility: that however Jupiter was as much afraid of a scolding as ever, and Juno still preserved the ascendancy; which perhaps was in a good measure owing to her so seldom making use of sharp words: that she passed most of her time with Diana and Minerva; that the Muses were often of the party, and altogether formed a most delightful society. That the rest of the gods and goddesses went on pretty much in the old way. Apollo was still as fond of driving as ever, and intended to be president of the four-in-hand club; he devoted his evenings, however, to music, and that having tried all instruments in succession, he had lately laid them all by for the Irish harp, which was his present favourite. That Bacchus was not fit company for ladies, especially since he used so much tobacco, and therefore she seldom saw him; but had heard, that after having been greatly addicted to punch for many years since the introduction of spirituous liquors, he had again returned to wine, and preferred good old port to all other liquors. That as to Venus, it was not to be supposed any of the modest goddesses knew any thing of her; but as we must pass near her favourite island, it was probable we should hear something of her on the way. Nothing particular had happened to the rest of the divinities, except that Hebe had again been reinstated in her office, and the young gentleman who held her place was dismissed in disgrace.

By this time Neptune had finished his letter, and I was called on deck to receive it; and the goddesses all came up at the same time. Neptune then gave me the letter, with many charges to see that it was sent to Hebe, if Jupiter was not at Olympus. The sea chariots were then all called up; we handed the goddesses into theirs, and Neptune followed. They all set off at full speed; we gave them three cheers, and another salute of twenty-one guns, which was returned by a general flourish fom the tritons on their shells.

Neptune's letter being open, I read the contents, which were as follows:

"Neptune, emperor of all the seas, to his sublime eminence, Jupiter, emperor of the earth and air, and his well-beloved brother:

"Dear Jove,

"It is a long time since I troubled you, nor did I think I should have occasion now, but you will soon see how the case is, and will then excuse me. The purport of this letter is to draw on you for my arrears of nectar, which have been lying over for many years;

which happened, because as long as I could get right Nantz, I preferred it, as agreeing best with the sea; but now I can get no more, as the English have for some time fallen into Bonaparte's snare, and have put his decrees in force against themselves, and all commerce is nearly at an end, and no brandy is now to be had for money; what little I get is in presents from the British sailors, but I am loath to deprive the jolly dogs of the liquor they love best; they are my chief favourites; they have annihilated all the fleets of the world, and I now seldom hear a gun fired in my dominions.

"Their success is really wonderful, considering how little their high mightinesses the admiralty have done to assist them on shore, and with what extreme obstinacy all improvements in the naval arts have been repressed by them; what a pity, that hearts of oak should be thus at the mercy of heads of leather! At present I am obliged to drink port, which is but a thin liquor for me, and even this supply, I fear, will be soon cut off, for Douro, of Talavera, is in full retreat either to Corunna, or some such port; and when the remains of his army are embarked, the English will not fail, as usual, to shut up the Portuguese ports against themselves and the rest of the world. I therefore am obliged to write for my allowance of nectar as aforesaid, and beg you will send me by the first ship forty pipes of the strongest Olympus particular. I send this open, that Hebe may forward the above, if you should not be in the way, as I am in great need of good liquor: in that case she will hand this to you on your arrival, and you may debit my account accordingly. Your's ever, Dear Jove,

NEPTUNE."

I had almost forgot to mention, that I took an opportunity, in conversing with Thetis, to inquire about the mermaid who lately was seen in the British seas. She assured me it was the same mermaid of which an account is given by Autolicus, in one of Shakespeare's plays, and whose appearance then was attested by five justices. I asked what might be her business in the channel? She said, she could not be certain, but supposed she might be going on a visit to Mareen Roe, at Shane's-castle, who was a near relation of hers. I then asked how she contrived to get there? and was answered, that she usually swam up the river Bann; that if she met with any falls or Salmon-leaps in her way, she sprang over them at a single bound, thinking nothing of leaping forty feet clear out of the water. I thought this rather a bounce, I must confess, but did not think it polite to contradict a goddess.

The good effects of Neptune's message to Eolus now became evident; a fine steady gale sprung up N.W. and by N. and the sea continuing as smooth as a mill-pond by the same favour, we set all our studding sails, and scudded away at a most amazing rate. The wind continued in this point till we came abreast of the streights, when it came round more to the west, and we soon made Gibraltar.

Here we cast anchor, to take in water, which being effected, and our anchor a-peak again in a few hours, we once more got under way, and proceeded with our former rapidity.

We had before long a distant view of the smoaking top of Stromboli, and shortly after saw the sublime exhibition of Mount Etna, in full eruption.

Having passed Sicily and Malta, we steered for the archipelago, and soon came in view of the charming islands of Greece; but had scarcely begun to distinguish them plainly, when we discovered several boats advancing towards us. The captain took his glass to see what they might be, but soon laid it down again, saying, "our voyage is now at an end, for we are just on the point of being carried in captives to that distant island." These words were, however, spoken with a smiling countenance, and an air which by no means coincided with the misfortune he announced.

But my attention was now drawn off to the boats that approached the ship, which to my astonishment appeared to be rowed towards us by females; and as they came nearer, my surprize encreased, as I beheld them more distinctly.

The boats were of large size, and of the most beautiful form, painted in the

gayest manner, and adorned with carved and gilt ornaments, of the most elegant designs; on benches covered with cushions of pink sattin, sat the most lovely and exquisitely formed young females I ever beheld, arrayed in fanciful draperies of white muslin, disposed so as to heighten every beauty it displayed, and add the colouring of warm imagination to those it concealed: with oars of cedar they gently, yet swiftly, pressed forward to delicious music from the softest and mellowest flutes. When near enough they hailed the ship, and we informed them we were from Ireland, and bound to Samos. "Then gentlemen," they replied, "if you please, you must first visit Paphos, where our queen and mistress, the goddess Cytherea expects you; we are sent out to fetch you in, and hope you will make no resistance." The captain informed them in return, "that we were their humble slaves, and should not refuse to submit to that power which all nature obeyed," and immediately ordered the men to fire a salute in honour of their mistress, and haul down their colours in token of submission. "Stop, gentlemen, cried the beautiful nymphs, fire not, these are not the salutes we use at Paphos, we thought Irishmen did not require to be taught how to salute the ladies;" immediately on this they leaped on board, with the utmost grace and agility, and saluted us all in their fashion, which is the same as that of our warm-hearted country, where the friendly and innocent lip is still presented, and the icy refinement of the petrifying cheek does not yet prevail. "Gentlemen, they cried, you are now our prisoners. The principal of you must go ashore directly, in one of our boats, and we will take care to bring the ship and men safe into port shortly after you." It would be in vain to resist, nor indeed did we ever think of it, as no conquest is so complete as that over the will.

The captain and I were soon seated in one of their boats, and ten of the young beauties prepared to bring us to the shore, we offered to assist at the oars, but this they would not permit, and we instantly set off, leaving the ship to the guidance of the other nymphs.

The charms of the ladies prevented me from noticing any thing else hitherto; but I now discovered, that there were among them several little boys, of the most gracely and beautiful forms, and on looking more earnestly, I saw they bore little wings on their shoulders, softer and more white than the snowy down of the cygnet's neck. I now perceived who they were, and trembled at their well known power, while I admired their beauty. I was surprized, however, that none of them carried bows or quivers, or the fatal darts so much dreaded by all; and one of them in his gambols round the boat coming near me, I could not forbear asking why they appeared without their usual arms, especially when they came out to take prisoners; with a lovely smile he replied; "these arms you talk of were laid aside some centuries ago, we have long since learned that no weapons are more effectual than those furnished by the eyes of the ladies, for distant encounters; but for closer contests we use the galvanism of beauty." You speak strange language. Is galvanism, which has lately been applied to so many extraordinary purposes, to become one of your weapons also? "It has been so, long before the word was known in Europe," replied he; "but you will cease to wonder when I explain to you how it operates." The little fellow then most philosophically explained the whole matter, but this part of the history must be reserved for the Transactions of The Royal Society, this not being a fit place for philosophical dissertations. After this discourse, I clearly understood how Socrates became affected in the remarkable manner (he has described so particularly) when reading along with Aspasia; and comprehended the origin of that gentle flame he mentions, which seeming to proceed from her beautiful arm leaning on his shoulder, softly by degrees pervaded his whole frame. I understood also many other instances of a similar nature, but of more modern date, which had before puzzled me not a little; and now saw that the poets have been only describing real facts, when we have supposed them to be romancing, and that those flames and fires of love, of which they have writ-

ten so feelingly, far from being imaginary, had an existence perfectly real; our error respecting them only consisting in supposing those mentioned to be of the nature of gross culinary fires, and therefo e only metaphorical, whereas in fact they are those gentle galvanic flames, which warm without consuming, and produce the most powerful effects by causes almost imperceptible. Hence arose the error stated in the popular song of the Little Lovers:

"Then the little maid replied,
Should I be your little bride?
Pray what should we have for to eat?
Will the flame that you're so rich in
Light a fire in the kitchen!
Or the little god of love turn the meat."

Those gross ideas proceeding entirely from confounding two fires totally distinct in their nature.

Lastly, this account of the matter, by the smiling boy, explained to me a mysterious advice given me by a sage; whom I had the good fortune to have both as the director of my studies and my friend, in my boyish days; to impress the advice on my memory, he took the trouble to put it in verse, so as to form a didactic poem, of which the following are the two first verses.

ADVICE OF THE SAGE, * * * * * * * *
TO HIS PUPIL.

Unless wise Boscovith is wrong,
Round every atom is a sphere,
Where its attraction is most strong,
Which lessens farther or more near;
Suppose this system to amend,
That love itself an atom is,
And mighty uses, I contend,
Will flow from this hypothesis.

At two feet distance round the Fair,
Describe the circle, A. B. C.
This we may fairly call the sphere,
Of greatest sensibility;
When once the pains of love begin,
With care avoid this dangerous space,
Keep far without, or close within,
You'll get relief in either case;
To mitigate love's cruel pains,
A hard and weighty problem is,
My *datum* two solutions gains,
By Analysis and Synthesis.

While these reflections passed in my mind, the boat had reached the shore. On landing, the captain took leave of me, going off to join his men, with most of the nymphs from the boat, to another part of the island, where the ship was to be brought into port.

Two of the nymphs proceeded with me to the internal part of the island, to the palace of their queen, according to their orders. The ground, as we advanced, was covered with a profusion of flowers, and flowering shrubs in abundance presented themselves on every side, which perfumed the air to the highest degree. The branches of the trees were covered with myriads of pairs of billing turtle doves, and innumerable sparrows flitted across the intervals; on the larger boughs numerous monkeys played their gambols. The gazelle, the antelope, the zebra, and wild horse, sported on the verdant plains, and in the distance flocks of ostriches, passed across with the speed of arrows. The air was of that temperature, which caused a pleasing languor, and every object inspired ideas of pleasure and repose.

After passing through a few miles of beautiful scenes of this nature, a magnificent palace of white marble appeared in view, surrounded on three sides by lofty groves. It was of the richest species of the Corinthian order, and folding doors of copper gilt, highly ornamented with fanciful devices, admitted us to a spacious vestibule, where a crowd of beautiful nymphs received us. After waiting here a short time, I was ordered in to the presence, and a nymph more sumptuously attired than those I had yet seen, came forward to conduct me. Another pair of golden doors were thrown open, and the queen of beauty appeared before my astonished eyes in all the splendour of her charms.

The apartment was spacious, the walls were covered with immense mirrors, disposed in the intervals of magnificent columns of variegated marble, with gold capitals and bases; a rich Turkey carpet covered the floor, and ottomans overspread with crimson velvet, bordered with deep gold fringe, surrounded the space, where hundreds of nymphs of superior beauty, waited on the commands of their queen. But as the stars are no more seen, when the sun rises from the ocean, so was their charms eclipsed by those of the divine Cytherea, who was seated at the head of the room, on a sofa of

highly wrought ivory, raised on two steps of Parian marble, covered as the other furniture, with crimson velvet. She was above the middle size, and every limb and every feature was formed with such exquisite grace, and perfection of beauty, as to be separately a study for an artist; the whole united, produced a most dazzling effect, and I stood motionless, with astonishment and admiration.

She perceived my embarrassment, and with a sweet look of encouragement, from her large blue eyes, ordered me to approach, in a voice of inexpressible harmony and softness. I directly obeyed, and was preparing to kneel at the foot of the throne, when with the kindest condescension she ordered me to be seated on an ottoman near its steps, observing "that she left to the haughty Juno the dominion of pride, and contented herself with the homage of the heart." I now was sufficiently relieved from surprize at her beauty, to be able to observe her dress, which was of the simplest form, of muslin shaded with a flowing mantle of light blue silk, without any ornament but that of her splendid zone, richly set with jewels of immense value, and a single wreath of brilliants binding her auburn tresses.

With a divine smile she then inquired the design of my voyage into those seas. I informed her as briefly as I could, to what my embassy to the court of Juno related, and concluding that the Queen of Beauty could not but be favourable to the cause of my fair countrywomen, who by their charms at least, seemed to share largely in her gifts. I solicited her interest with that goddess in their favour, having little doubt of receiving a propitious answer, and considerable aid in my suit; but was somewhat disappointed with her reply, when she informed me: "That my countrywomen were no favourites of hers, nor did she feel much inclination to befriend them; that they preferred the favours of Minerva and Diana to hers, and to them I might apply; for her part she could not enter into the merit of those prudish virtues, which were confined by domestic fetters, and of those were their chief boast. That I must know well that a faithful discharge of conjugal duties was no recommendation to her, on the contrary, the reciprocal endearments of family ties, appeared to her quite ridiculous. If my countrywomen were the most faithful and affectionate wives, the most dutiful daughters, and the tenderest mothers in the world, could I suppose that would please her? the greater their excellence in these respects, the more disagreeable they were to her, and it was owing to this very excellency, which she well knew they eminently possessed, that they had so little of her favour: that at all events, even if she was inclined to serve their suit, she had no power; that she and Juno were, as of old, of opposite parties; she being in the French interest, while Juno and Minerva espoused the English cause. That she very seldom went to Ireland, for the reasons before mentioned, and took little interest in it, having such ample amusement in the French and English capitals, between which she usually divided her winters; that she had lately a political quarrel with Juno; for that having formed a plan to serve her friends, the French, at the expense of the English, she had employed her emissary Mary Anne Clark, to use the influence with which she had purposely furnished her, for the overthrow of the British army, by the promotion of incompetent and ignorant persons to the rank of officers, who could not fail to lead their men into every disaster and disgrace, when brought into the field against the well selected commanders of Napoleon; who, in their promotion, considered their individual merit as soldiers alone, not their connections with his senate, or the weight of their purses. That the business was proceeding as well as could be wished, and numbers of officers of the above description were appointed in the British army; when Britannia became so much alarmed, that she applied personally to Juno, who instantly dispatched Minerva to her assistance; that Minerva had brought forward her friend Colonel Wardle, by whose exertions in the senate, the nation were made sensible of the plot, and the matter ended for the present, by the changes which took place in consequence of the discovery. That Juno had been very angry with

her for the part she took in the affair; but this she did not mind, and that though they had contrived to seduce her emissary from her service, she knew how to make even her serviceable to her cause in spite of them; that though she would delay the punishment her perfidy deserved, in the end she intended to punish her severely, by disgrace and poverty at the close of her life; and in the mean time would cause her to betray her new friend, the colonel, after leading him into such indiscretions as would lessen his influence considerably, if not totally destroy it."

I could not help feeling somewhat hurt at the contempt with which the goddess talked of our military; and as our famous expedition for Walcheren was then fitting out, I mentioned it with some exultation, stating the prodigious preparations made, the great pains taken by ministers, who even attended on the embarkation in person, and had spared no expense to render every thing complete; adding also what was expected from the favour of Providence on the undertaking, from the prayers of the pious Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was known to be most powerful in prayer; and also from the prayers of Mr. Wilberforce, and all his evangelical friends, who were heartily disposed to spare no efforts in this way for its success; hoping that all this would induce her divinityship to talk of our affairs with somewhat more respect.

But I was still more mortified, when she burst into a loud and long continued fit of laughter, and then observed, that she had contrived a method to render this fine expedition perfectly abortive, by the simplest means imaginable; that she had applied to Morpheus to personate his great votary and worshipper, the noble commander of the expedition, and lead the army in his place (which was no great difficulty, as there was such a resemblance in their persons and manners, that one might be easily taken for the other;) and that at the present moment Morpheus was in actual command in Walcheren, while his lordship was snug in his bed in London, locked up in a private apartment; and that perhaps I might see something more of this business on my way back. That as to the prayers of the Evangelicals, or, as they were more properly called by the people, the Jellysculls; the old fable of Jupiter and the waggoner would explain what was to be expected from indolent prayers, unaided by any manly effort to further their design.

She then concluded, by returning to the business of my embassy; saying, that though she was no friend to my countrywomen, for the reasons already stated, yet that in consideration to the zeal I had manifested in the cause of her sex, she would do the only thing she could to assist me, and would therefore dispense with my performing the usual residence of forty days in her island, which all men who landed there were obliged to do by an ancient law; but as she could not possibly dismiss the captain and his crew till after that time, she would order one of her light vessels to be ready to convey me on the next morning, to the present residence of Juno, which was then not at Samos, as I supposed, but at Delos, where she and Minerva were both on a visit to Diana, with whom they now spent much of their time. Saying this, she rose from her throne, commended me to the care of her nymphs, and wishing me a good voyage, retired to an inner apartment; after first graciously presenting me her divine hand to kiss.

The touch of this celestial hand, the model of beauty and perfection, occasioned a delicious sensation so powerful, as for some time to deprive me of recollection, and when I recovered, the goddess was no more to be seen, and I found myself again surrounded by her nymphs; who, in a most obliging manner led me to a saloon, where a table lay spread with a variety of exquisite dishes, an abundance of the finest fruit, from all parts of the world, and a profusion of the most delicious wines. NEMORENSIS.

To be continued.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

I AM your constant Reader, and fond of exploring and discovering the antiquities of Ulster, and perceiv

ing, that you insert in your Magazine, dissertations on these subjects, if you think the following account of the objects pointed out to me, when travelling on the mail-coach road, from Belfast to Antrim, worthy the attention of travellers you may insert it in your useful Publication. I am &c.

Antrim, Oct. 1, 1809 JANE M'D.

Yesterday on getting into the coach for this place I found in it a silent, grave looking, elderly man, who was unwilling to give any answer to my questions, but, yes madam, or no madam.

But, when a mile from town, being struck with the beauty of the plantations, and neatness of the seats on the land side of the road, and with the beauty of the bay on the other, I asked this man, whose name, he said is Senex, the name of the land; he said *Skiog-O'Neil*, adding, that this country was once the property of the O'Neils; the parish is a vicarage called Shankil, or the old church; that Belfast was more ancient than it appears; that the date of the castle of Belfast is unknown; that it was inhabited before Elizabeth's time by Randolphus Lane, and granted by her to Sir Thomas Smith, the elder, and to Thomas Smith, esq. the younger, with a vast tract of adjoining lands, on condition, that they should keep in readiness a certain number of foot-men, and horsemen, well accoutred and horsed, and be ready to muster in a certain number of days, after being required by proclamation in Antrim. When Sir A. Chichester, was lord deputy, such a proclamation was issued in the time of James I. neither of the Smiths appearing as required, their patent was forfeited; the castle and cinament* of Belfast were granted to Sir Arthur. The family inhabited this castle till it was destroyed by fire, and two ladies burnt in it.

This bay contains about 24 square miles, fit for the secure anchorage of large ships. The pool in which vessels lie, about three miles down, is *Carmoil* (the place of heaps of fish.) The whole bay is in most maps written Carrickfergus bay, from the name of the founder of that castle, situated on the shore, about eight miles from Belfast, supposed by some historians to be the first king of Scotland; but at the time of the erection of this edifice, Ireland was named Scotia, and Scotland, Caledonia; our historians mention two kings of Scotia, of the name of Fergus; the first of whom erected this pile.

Two miles and a half from Belfast, are the ruins of a castle, vulgarly called Green-castle, corrupted from Caislean Greiné, the sunny castle, from its situation.

The rocky hill to the north of it is called Cave hill, from a number of caves in it, cut out of the rock; the lowest cave is like a large room 16 feet wide, and 18 long, the roof is flat; the second higher up, is about 10 feet long, and 8 wide, the top is in the form of a Gothic arch; the third is twice as large as the first, and the fourth resembles the second.

The bold front of this hill, with the sharp adjoining rocks, exhibit a most beautiful picturesque view.

The range of mountains which extends along this shore, exhibits a great variety of picturesque scenes, and the springs and streams which issue from them are the sources of comfort and wealth to the surrounding inhabitants.

On turning from the shore to Temple Patrick, we get a view of the small church of Carmoney, anciently named Coole of Carnmoney. This parish, Ballylinny, called also Ballywalter, and the parish of Ballymartin, are united. On the left we have a view of Collinward-mountain, on the top of it are two cairns, ancient cemeteries, in use, before the time of interring the dead. The road then enters the small vicarage of *Moylusk* (the plain of the cave.) This was the property of the knights of St. John of Jerusalem in Ireland. The vicarial tythe is paid to the Dean of Connor in Carrickfergus.

This small vicarage, with three townlands adjacent, Craigarogan, Kilgreel,

* *Cinèin* (Irish) is a family, and cinament is the district or habitation of a family. Cinament of the castle of Belfast must mean the land possessed by the family living in the castle.

and Barnes, were granted by patent to Sir Arthur Chichester, and by him to one of the officers in his regiment; at length it was conveyed by assignment to the family of Upton, and by them to the family of Rowley.

The name of the townland of Kilgreel, is from a church near Roughfort, signifying the church of the dagger. This parish is called Carngraney, from a curious ancient stone building near it, like an ancient cromleach, or altar, raised upon stone supporters. These large stones were twelve in number ranged from S.E. to N.W. that one toward the west, is six or seven feet high, that to the east, nearly on the ground; they appear like steps of stairs, gradually rising from east to west. The name of this I think is *Carne Greiné*, or the cairn of the sun.

Near this is an ancient mount supposed to be intended for a large temple, on which the surrounding inhabitants worshipped the sun; adjoining are several fortifications very different from the round raths of the Irish, and are probably Danish. On the rising ground, we have a view of the church and mount of *Donnegorr*, or the goat mount; and of the beautiful valley in the bottom of which runs the six-mile water; so called, because the road from Carrickfergus to Antrim, either touches it, or is near it, at that distance from this ancient fort. Templepatrick, once a beautiful village was mostly burnt by the Monaghan Militia the day after Antrim fight. This vicarage once, the property of the knights of St. John, is now united to Antrim. Three towns adjoining were granted by deed by Sir Arthur to Humphry Norton, who built the castle here, and gave it the name of Castle Norton, this district in the county book is the district of Castle Norton. We next passed the six-mile water, anciently *Owen Neview* (the river of the woods) at Dunethery, where a beautiful mount is planted with trees, the name signifies the middle mount being in the middle of the valley: this is in the grange of Nalteen; near this is an ancient Church in ruins, to what monastery it was attached is uncertain.

On the north side of the river the road passes through Island-ban, one of the eight towns of Muckomore. The other seven towns are on the south side of the six mile water. Colman obtained a grant of this district called Elo, from the O'Neils, at a meeting in Tara, in the year 550; hence his name is Colman Elo. He founded a famous monastery in this place which has been called Muckomore; I think corrupted from the true dedication, not to saints or angels, but to *Mochd mór*, the great, great, or very great One.

These eight towns were granted by James I. to Sir Roger Langford about the year 1639, they are now part of the property of the family of Massareene.

When near Antrim we have a view of a round tower entire, which has been built on the plan of the ancient round towers of Ireland, supposed to have been places for preserving the sacred fire of the country. There was adjoining this tower a monastery called *Eutroia*, a supposed improvement of the name Antrim, which signifies the caves of the sorcerers.

The town was once a flourishing place with two excellent fairs held on the 12th of May and 12th of November, and a good market every week on Thursday; but since the non-residence of the Massareene family it has been declining: Randelstown and Ballymena have succeeded to most of its trade and manufactures. On the south side of the river adjoining Antrim was the little monastery of Massareene, from *Musrain*, a beautiful portion, this small district was granted to Sir Arthur by James the first, and is still part of the estate of the Donegall family. The inhabitants of this beautiful and fruitful vale, between Carrickfergus-bay, and Lough-neagh, are almost universally Protestant dissenters.

I inquired why Senex did not publish an ancient and modern history of the County. He answered such is daily expected from the Literary Society of Belfast.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

IN your Magazine for June last, I was gratified to see some experiments upon the hydrometer, published

by Job Rider. The author was very brief, so much so, that I could have wished to have seen the different things better explained; and from the conclusion of your Magazine for August last, I expected to have had some rational and candid observations upon the same subject; but when I came to peruse the piece signed Mechanicus, in the Magazine for September last, I was much disappointed.

Mechanicus "should first have taken his ground deliberately, and made himself acquainted previously," before he wrote upon a subject that he seems not quite acquainted with.

Through the medium of your Magazine, I beg leave to offer the following observations, in support of that truth which Mechanicus seems not to have rightly understood.

Mechanicus informs us, that hydrometers ought to be made with small stems for accuracy, and immediately after condemns small stems, because they cannot be divided upon the stem, and the range will be so limited as to render it nearly useless. Had Mechanicus been "a discerning artist," he might have known that such hydrometers have met wish general approbation (where accuracy is required) as the range can be encreased by weights; also, many of the most accurate hydrometers have no figures marked on the stem. This knowledge would not only have saved him any farther demonstration, but have taught him also the use of what he calls "this warm water thermometer," viz. "what care is necessary for observing the temperature of the fluid, before its specific gravity can be correctly known." But I also am of a decided opinion, that this does not apply that a new discovery is made, but an useful caution is certainly given; as such I took it at first, and do think most candid readers would understand it in like manner. But Mechanicus seems to have had as little reason as candour, which will appear from the following observations: "Mr. R. observing the hydrometer he had made, so very sensible in showing the different specific gravity of fluids, seems to have applied it to the old and well-known fact, viz. were two bodies balanced in a pair of scales, in air, water, or spirits, &c. when these two bodies are very different in size, they will lose the balance in another medium of different density. Whether this was Mr. R's datum or not I cannot say, but his application is much the same. Mr. R. places a large glass bubble, hermetically sealed, on the top of the stem of the hydrometer (see the figure in the Magazine for last June) and adjusts it in water to stand at the height required, having the lower ball immersed in water, and the glass or air-ball, in the air, with a small stem connecting the two balls together, it is easy to conceive was this hydrometer so adjusted, and to be placed under the receiver of an air-pump, and the air partly exhausted, the air-ball would sink, because the medium the air-ball is in, in this case, will become lighter; but should the air be condensed, it would rise, because the medium would be specifically heavier; comparatively the same as an egg will sink in fresh water, and swim in pickle, because the salt makes the water heavier. Every buoyant body will carry or bear the weight of the water removed by the body: for instance, should the body and balance of an hydrometer weigh two ounces, and the weight of the water, when it is immerged therein, be equal to five ounces, it will take three ounces to sink it; and suppose three ounces to be the weight of a glass bubble placed as before mentioned, the active weight of this bubble to sink the body, will vary in weight by the different specific gravity of the air, the same as the bulk of air removed by the glass bubble varies, and occasion the hydrometer to sink deeper, or rise higher, according to the change which takes place in the air. But what says Mechanicus: "this is *impossible*," because glass is heavier than the air. He might also have said, with the same propriety, that a ship cannot have masts, because wood, &c. is also heavier than air. This kind of philosophy I must leave to Mechanicus to give a name. The reason and candour displayed by him can best be known by comparing his remarks, and note upon this head, contained in the Magazine before mentioned; and I will leave the candid reader to judge who the words Mechanicus applies to Mr. R. suit best; viz. "how has it happened, that an absurdity so glaring should escape the

notice of an observing artist?" The rhapsody made use of by Mechanicus prevents me from following him any farther, to give room for a few observations of my own: Having tried the water barometer, as described in fig. 2, (see Magazine for June last) and have found, by repeated trials, a proportion between the body B. and the air in the small vessel—that seem to be correct, and to answer what Mr. R. proposes, viz. that it did neither rise nor fall between the temperature of 55 degrees of Farenheit's scale and 70; and I have found a size for a stem that also answers my expectation; but at first I made the stem too small, the consequence was that it could not be balanced, so as to stand at a mean height, but would either sink or swim, and stand at no other place than the top or bottom. But two difficulties, arise, and remain with me, one is, how to adapt a scale to it, so as to correspond with a mercurial barometer; the other still appears to me equally as difficult, to get air to preserve the same proportion, and not diminish in bulk. I would mention the proportions I have already found, and the kind of air I used; but hope that Mr. R. will give some more information, being thankful for his hints already given; and I think much better of this water barometer than as a "visionary toy." M.D.C.

Dublin, Oct. 7.

Remarks on the letter of M.D.C.

In reply to what M. D. C. has stated in part of his letter, of an apparent inclination against Mr. Rider in the Conductors of the Magazine, we can assure him he is totally mistaken; that on the contrary, our care to prevent his feelings being wounded needlessly, was so great, that we cut out so many passages of the first paper sent us by Mechanicus on the subject, which we thought would have that tendency, that Mechanicus sent to demand his paper back again: with the following observations annexed to it, which, as expressing the opinions of the Proprietors on the point of managing disputed subjects in our work, we take this opportunity to insert:

The second paper sent us by Mechanicus is that inserted in the last number; but from this also we pruned some asperities, though in general it was so much more moderate than the first as to make this less necessary. For the same reason stated in the annexed observations, we have omitted an irritating paragraph at the end of the letter of M. D. C. On most subjects stated in the Magazine, the necessity of free and impartial discussion is obvious; we take no part on either side, but as moderators of that warmth which controversy of any kind is too apt to excite; but if partiality is at all justifiable, it is on the side of those who favour us with original papers, and such the Editor at least acknowledges he felt in favour of Mr. Rider's communication for this reason.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE PAPER OF MECHANICUS FIRST SENT.

Mr Rider has not stated that the stem of his hydrometer was made of glass, as here asserted; the stem of it was probably of wire or thin brass, of which only the thickness is stated without mentioning the breadth. Several rough expressions of Mechanicus have been omitted; such are at least useless on most subjects, but on those of the nature of this paper are peculiarly objectionable, and have the less excuse, as these subjects contain nothing to excite the passions. If our Correspondents would in future consider this, they would much oblige us, and would save to themselves the trouble of writing what cannot be inserted, and to us, that of erasing it.

For the above reasons, two of the author's notes have been omitted also; in the first we agree with him that the word barometer is preferrable to baroscope, from its being more in use, but object to the language in which this observation is conveyed. The other note is a personal reflection, and contains nothing to illustrate the subject.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

An Account of the progress of Joseph Lancaster's plan for the Education of poor Children, and the training of Masters for country Schools.

IN the year 1798 Joseph Lancaster opened a school in St. George's-fields, for the education of the chil-

dren of the poor, at a very reduced charge. In the prosecution of this work he was obliged to devise plans of economy, in order to diminish the expense of books, paper, &c.—and also a particular kind of discipline, that he might be able to manage a large number of children without the necessity of employing ushers or assistants with salaries. The present state of perfection exhibited by his school is the result of numerous experiments and indefatigable attention during a number of years; and it is with gratitude and pleasure that he acknowledges the encouragement he has received from enlightened and benevolent individuals, which has from time to time operated as a powerful stimulus to persevering exertion. In an early stage of his labours, he obtained the patronage and liberal support of the Duke of Bedford and Lord Somerville, who commenced a subscription for buildings necessary, to form a large school-room, in order that his experiments in tuition might be exhibited on a great number of children; this object was soon accomplished; the school was opened as a free school, and children received to the number of seven hundred.

The same benevolent personages, looking forward to the more general diffusion of these benefits, were desirous that a plan should be established for training young men and lads as school-masters, that by a practical knowledge of the improved modes of tuition they might be qualified to superintend schools to be formed in various parts of the kingdom upon the same plan.

The institution in the Borough-road, therefore, consists of free schools for boys and girls, and an establishment for boarding, clothing, and training up young men and women for school-masters and school-mistresses, so as to qualify them to undertake the charge of new schools.

To this school and establishment, the King and Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Princesses, and the Royal Dukes, have extended their patronage and annual bounty.

For a detail of the precise nature of his plan, Joseph Lancaster refers to his printed book, intitled "Improvements in Education;" but its distinguishing features are these:

1. That by his system of order and rewards, together with the division of the school into classes, and the assistance of monitors, one master is able to conduct a school of one thousand children.

2. That by printing a spelling-book, or any other lessons for reading, in a large type, upon one side of the paper, and pasting the sheets thus printed, on a pasteboard, they may, when suspended to a nail, against the wall, be read by any number of children; a method whereby one book will serve for a whole school, instead of a book for each child.

3. That by the introduction of writing upon slates, and one boy spelling to his whole class any certain word, the boys in the class will instantly write it, going on in this manner for an hour or more, so that boys may write and spell one hundred words in the course of a morning: a method whereby five hundred boys may spell and write the same word, at the same instant of time.

4. An entire new method of instruction in arithmetic, wholly superceding the former method of setting sums in cyphering books, or using books, as Walkinghame's or Dilworth's assistant for the four first rules: a plan whereby any child who can read, may teach arithmetic with the utmost certainty.

5. The expense of education is reduced to a very trifling sum. Schools for three hundred children may be supported at the rate of seven shillings per annum for each child; and for a greater number of children, it may be reduced to four shillings per annum for each child.

And lastly, while Joseph Lancaster is anxious to lay the foundation of religious and moral principles in the youthful mind, he studiously avoids introducing controverted theological points, and in short, every thing which is peculiar to any sect or party. The holy Scriptures is the only religious book taught in the school; for here, as Sir W. Jones expresses it, we have "purer morality than can be collected from any other book in any lan-

guage:" or as Locke has well observed, a volume which has "God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its subject."

By proceeding upon this broad and general basis, there is nothing repulsive to the feelings of any particular sect, but the doors of his schools are thrown open to receive the whole community.

The good which must arise from the extension of these elementary schools, cannot be calculated: their influence upon the morals and conduct of the lower orders of society has already been experienced; and we may entertain more than a hope, that they will not fail to diminish the number of crimes, cherish and promote virtuous dispositions among the great mass of the people, and thus most materially contribute to the happiness and security of the state.—In some places where J. Lancaster has established schools, by the committees dividing the children into different bodies, and conducting them to the several places for worship, hundreds of children are taken in an orderly manner to attend divine service, who formerly profaned the Lord's day by idle and riotous conduct in the streets.

In the Borough-school alone 4000 children have been educated, whose parents were of the poorest description, and hitherto no instance has been noticed of any one of these being charged with a criminal offence in any court of justice. In this school the progress of the children in learning is rapid; it is no uncommon thing for one or two hundred boys to obtain tickets of commendation daily, and more than one hundred to have rewards for merit in the course of a single week. The improvement in morals, and the habits of order among the children who are educated on this system in town or country is of the most gratifying nature.

At Bristol a school for 300 children has been opened, and the order is so complete, that a boy of thirteen, can keep school as well as the master. At its commencement, profaneness was so common among the children, that it was not unusual for 70 or 80 boys to be found swearing in the school-room in the course of a single week; such instances now rarely occur. A lad who only eight months ago, could neither write nor cypher, is now head monitor of the school, having obtained his learning in the act of teaching others. The general improvement of the children is obvious and striking; and many of the parents have voluntarily expressed their satisfaction. This school was organised by a young man, not nineteen years of age, an apprentice to Joseph Lancaster.

In the town of Swansea, is a school in which 270 children are now educating; it is conducted by an excellent young man, who had his education in the school at the Borough-road, and acted as one of J. Lancaster's earliest monitors; this school is in high order, and the accounts of the improvements of the scholars very satisfactory.

At the request of a number of gentlemen belonging to the University of Cambridge, and by permission of the vice chancellor, Joseph Lancaster explained the principles of his plan of education, in a public lecture in the town hall of that place, and a school was formed with the particular sanction and support of gentlemen of the first respectability in the university, who constituted themselves a committee for its management: the school consists of about 230 boys, and although it has not been opened above six months, the improvement of the children is very considerable.

At Canterbury a royal free school has also been established with the sanction of the mayor, the members in parliament for the city, several aldermen, the deputy lieutenant of the county, and a number of respectable citizens: among the subscribers are General Cartwright, aid-du-camp to the king, and several military officers: the number of children is above 400; who, only 12 months ago, were destitute of any instruction. The following extract from the half yearly report of the committee in July last, presents a most striking example of the utility of these schools:

"The committee of the Canterbury Royal Free School, have the pleasure

to report to the subscribers, that since the opening of the school, on the 1st of January, 321 boys have been admitted, many of whom are above ten years of age. Of these children, above 100 who did not know the alphabet, have learnt to read, and there are more than 250 now taught to write; likewise, that when the school was opened, very few had received any instruction in arithmetic, but that now 120 have commenced, and several of them have made considerable progress.

The school at Dover, established by John Jackson, esq. M.P. for that place, has been already productive of much good; the children mostly belong to sea-faring people, and it was said "if you can bring these boys into order, you can do any thing;" this, however was accomplished with small exertion by one of J. Lancaster's lads, only seventeen years of age. This school consists of near 200 boys, many of whom have learnt to read and write in the course of the present year.

The city of Rochester has followed these noble examples. J. Lancaster having explained his plans in a public lecture at the town hall, the proposition for a school was seconded by the mayor, and met with general approbation; a school for 200 boys has since been established, and great credit is due to the committee for their philanthropic zeal in promoting the education of the poor. Their monthly returns, which are kept with great exactness, exhibit the great progress which the children make.

A school upon the same plan has been established at Lynn, under the sanction of the clergy and most of the respectable inhabitants; the expense is defrayed by a subscription, to which the members of parliament for this place most liberally contribute. This school consists of 230 boys, and is in an excellent state of organization; and it is stated in the schoolmaster's report, that in November last he had 20 boys in the rule of three, who did not know figures in the preceding May.

The Duke of Bedford, deeply impressed with the importance of extending these schools throughout the nation, has established one at Woburn for a large number of boys.—The duke and dutchess occasionally visit the school, and take great interest in the improvement of the children.

To these may be added the following schools now formed and forming on J. Lancaster's plan, but which can only be briefly enumerated.

Maiden Bradley; Deptford; Leicester; several in Cheshire; Maidstone; Cheadle; Liverpool; Hull; Carlisle; Portsmouth; Oswestry; Manchester; Exeter; Ramsgate; Seaford; Brighton; Edinburgh; Clewer, near Windsor; Birmingham; Downham; Watchett, &c. and some in Ireland.

In short, the public appear to feel so warm an interest in the cause of education, that J. L. is constantly receiving applications from fresh places for assistance in the formation of schools. These facts are a gratifying proof that the advantages of his system are not confined to his own institution, but are capable of becoming a national, instead of a mere local benefit. The plan is even now spreading upon the Continent of America. In New York a school has been established for 180 children which has given such universal satisfaction, that they now propose to enlarge their premises, so as to accommodate from 5 to 700 children. The example of New York is about to be followed in other parts of the United States.

As education can be afforded on terms so easy, nothing more is required for the establishment of a school in any district, than the union of a number of benevolent persons in the neighbourhood, who might easily raise a trifling annual subscription among their friends sufficient for the purpose. The next point is the formation of a small but active committee; after which a large airy room should be provided and fitted up in the manner described in J. Lancaster's, Improvements in Education; and if any farther information should be thought necessary, J. L. will readily give it.

The institution at the Borough road, while it continues to educate a great

number of children, and to train masters and mistresses for the conducting of new schools, is also useful in another point of view; viz. as offering an extensive field for experiment. Whatever is rendered successful there, may be beneficially extended through the whole kingdom, as far as different situations admit. In the free school, Borough-road, every method that can be devised to reduce the expense of education will continue to be tried; while, on the other hand, such care will be taken in the use of the royal fund, and the subscriptions added thereto, as will have a tendency to reduce the price of books, slates, and rewards for the use of country schools, and which may be had at very reasonable rates by application to J. L. and it is to be considered, that if in the outfit of a school for 300 children, the committee of such schools can be supplied, so as to save 10*l.* in 20*l.* a very small capital employed in this way at the Borough-road may encourage the establishment of many hundred schools.

From the foregoing statement it is obvious, that in the attainment of objects like these, a considerable and heavy expense must be incurred; this has been partly provided for by the Royal bounty, and by the subscriptions of generous individuals.

It is very important that the public should rightly distinguish between the expense attending J. Lancaster's Free School, and his establishment for training school masters. In the former case the expense for ground-rent, rewards, and instruction does not exceed 100*l.* per annum, which is not more than 4*s.* per annum for the education of each child. But the support of the Institution for training young people, as it involves the board, cloathing, and lodging of a considerable family, cannot be supported but at a very considerable charge.

Joseph Lancaster in order that he may fully devote himself to the work of education, in the establishing and forming of schools and that the most satisfactory evidence may be given, of the due application of all subscriptions in aid of his plans, he has entrusted the management of his financial concerns to his friends, John Jackson, esq. M.P. new Broad-street; William Allen, Plough-court, Lombard-street; William Corston, No. 30, Ludgate-street; Joseph Foster, Bromley, Middlesex; Joseph Fox, No. 54, Lombard-street; Thomas Sturge, Newington-Butts; who, acting as a committee, will publish reports from time to time, concerning his progress in the formation of schools, and every particular connected therewith.

The committee assure the public of their high satisfaction in rendering assistance to so truly important and useful an undertaking. They earnestly solicit the support of the benevolent to enable them to meet the unavoidable expenses attending so large an establishment; and when it is considered that this Institution must be regarded as the root of a tree, whose branches, it is hoped, will extend themselves all over the British empire; they trust that the public will not be slow in contributing that annual aid necessary to render their labours efficient.

Subscriptions are received at J. Lancaster's Free School, Borough-road; by the members of the committee, and by the following Bankers:

Kensingtons, Styan, and Adams, 20, Lombard street; Hoares and Co. 37 Fleet-street; Ransom, Morland, and Co. Pall-Mall.

The Free-school is situated near Belvidere Place, Borough-road, not far from the Obelisk, and the public are respectfully informed that the school is open for inspection every afternoon (except Saturday) at three o'clock.

For the guidance of those benevolent persons who may wish to establish schools, a tract is published, intitled, "Instructions for the Formation and Conducting of a Society for the Education of the Children of the Labouring Classes of the People, according to the general Principles of the Lancasterian or British plan;" which may be had at the Free-school, and of Darton and Harvey, 55, Gracechurch-street; and of all booksellers in town and country, price one shilling.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

ACCOUNT OF THE LATE JOHN FOTHERGILL, M.D. F.R.S.

Continued from No. 14, p. 205.

IN the latter end of the year 1774, previous to the departure of Dr. Franklin out of this kingdom, an intimate friend of Dr. Fothergill being in company with a nobleman of great political experience, between whom the conversation turning on the critical situation of the American colonies, he pressed this gentleman to attempt a compromise with Dr. Franklin, before his intended departure; and he accordingly undertook it, from a cordial wish to promote a permanent reconciliation between the two countries: on this account he immediately applied to Dr. Fothergill, who heartily united in this undertaking; and they mutually invited Dr. Franklin to a conference the same evening, and Dr. Franklin as readily accepted the invitation. This triumvirate, zealous for the welfare of both nations, devoted many hours to the important subjects of deliberation; and, after much discussion, it was mutually agreed, that they should meet again on the succeeding evening, when Dr. Franklin should commit to paper such a conciliatory plan as he conceived America had a right to expect, and that the other two, as Englishmen, should then object to such claims as they might judge Great Britain ought not to grant.

On the appointed evening, Dr. Franklin produced the following propositions; and those lines which appear in Italics were objected to by Dr. Fothergill and his colleague, and which Dr. Franklin gave up, and suffered to be expunged:

HINTS FOR CONVERSATION, UPON THE SUBJECT OF TERMS THAT MAY PROBABLY PRODUCE A DURABLE UNION BETWEEN GREAT BRITIAIN AND HER COLONIES:

"1st. The tea destroyed, to be paid for:

2d. The tea duty act to be repealed, *and all the duties that have been received upon it to be repaid into the treasuries of the several provinces from which it has been collected:*

3d. The acts of navigation to be all re-enacted in the several Colonies:

4th. A naval officer, appointed by the crown, to reside in each colony, to see that these acts are observed:

5th. All the acts restraining manufactures in the Colonies, to be reconsidered:

6th. All duties arising on the acts for regulating trade with the Colonies, to be for the public use of the respective Colonies, and paid into their treasuries:

7th. The collectors and custom-house officers to be appointed by each governor, and not sent from England; the present officers to be continued only during each governor's pleasure:

8th. In consideration of the Americans maintaining their own peace establishment, and of the monopoly Britain is to have of their commerce, no requisition to be made from them in time of peace:

9th. In time of war, on requisition made by the king, with consent of parliament, every colony shall raise money by some such rule or proportion as the following: viz. If Britain, on account of the war, pays as high as 3s. in the pound to its land-tax, then the Colonies to add to their last general provincial tax a sum equal to (suppose $\frac{1}{4}$) thereof; and if Britain, on the same account, pays 4s. in the pound, then the Colonies to add to their said tax a sum equal to (suppose $\frac{1}{2}$) thereof; which additional tax is to be granted to the king, and to be employed in raising and paying men for land or sea service, furnishing provisions, transports, or for such other purposes as the king shall require and direct: and though no colony may contribute less, each may add as much by voluntary grant as they shall think proper:

10th. No troops to enter, and quarter in any colony, but with the consent of its legislature:

11th. Castle William to be restored to the province of the Massachusets Bay:

12th. The late Massachusets and Quebec acts to be repealed, and a free government granted to Canada:

13th The extension of the act of

Henry VIII. concerning treason, to the Colonies, to be formally disclaimed by parliament:

14th. The American Admiralty courts reduced to the same powers they have in England, and the acts relative to them to be re-enacted in America:

15th. All Judges in the king's colony governments to be appointed during good behaviour, the Colonies fixing ample and equally durable salaries: or, if it is thought best that the king should still continue to appoint during pleasure, then the colony assemblies to grant salaries during their pleasure, as has always heretofore been the practice:

16th. The Governors also to be supported by voluntary grants of the assemblies, as heretofore:

17*th. All power of internal legislation in the Colonies, to be disclaimed by the parliament.*"

In this state a copy was taken, and imparted for negociation; and the answer was, that the propositions were such as appeared to demand too much; and in consequence several attempts were made to reconcile the subjects of contention; but as the 12th article of the propositions was insisted on by Dr. Franklin, though many of the others were acceded to, the negociation was broken off, and in a short time afterwards Dr. Franklin embarked for America.

The man of philanthropy, who reflects upon the fatal carnage of 100,000 victims of war, drawn from the loom, and from rural tillage; and with it the fruitless expenditure of 100 millions of money, must unavoidably regret, that the laudable exertions of the physician and the patriot were thus unhappily frustrated. Seeing, however, though distantly, the impending danger, he persevered in the same line of conduct, and renewed his endeavours to stop the effusion of blood, and to reconcile the contending parties, as will appear by the following letter, which he wrote in 1775 to a noble Lord:

"The following sketch will show rather my wishes than my hopes, of seeing the most certain, speedy, and honourable means of affecting the proposed measures:

To send as speedily as possible some person or persons, on whom Government may rely, and who are not unknown to some of the leaders of the Congress, and on whose character and probity they may have some dependence, to propose to them:

That an act shall be passed this sessions, virtually repealing all the blameable acts, by declaring that the Colonies shall be considered as being governed by the same laws, or placed in the same situation as they were in, in the year 1762:

That in consequence of this declaration, if accepted by the Congress, the same persons shall have instructions to the commander in chief to cease all hostilities:

That a general amnesty shall be declared, all prisoners released, the provincial forces be disbanded, and the ports reciprocally opened for both countries:

That these preliminaries being fixed, instructions shall be sent to the several governors, to convene the assemblies, and require them to chuse two or more delegates, to meet a proper number of commissioners from England, at New York, and there to settle the due limits of authority on this side, and submission on theirs. The sword will never settle it as it ought to be. Submission to force, will endure no longer than superior force commands submission; interest only can make it perpetual: and it is the interest of Britain that the union should be perpetual, be the present sacrifice what it may:

The mode of proceeding in the union between England and Scotland may be adopted, so far as circumstances require; that is, the different conditions of the contenders considered. The objects are in most respects very different. From Scotland this country had chiefly in view negative advantages—that the Scots should not be any longer the tools of other powers, to work with to our undoing. From America we have every possible advantage to hope for; not only the benefits of commerce, but their power to protect us. No power in Europe, who knows its interest, and has any possessions in the Western World will chuse to offend us, whilst we and America are united; because those possessions are immediately subject to

the powers of America, directed by us: what those powers are we now know full well by experience. Every distant possession of every power in Europe, is a pledge for the good behaviour of its owner to Great Britain. Is any object we are now contending for, an equivalent to such an extensive and most certain influence?

It is therefore much to be wished, that some such persons might be pitched upon, and sent out, rather in a private character, as friends to both countries, than as public authoritative commission: for if those who are now invested in America with power, should distrust them, the business is at an end; and this country and that are left exposed to all the distresses, which are only beginning to be felt by both:

Administration may think it an easy matter to avert any storm which may arise from a discovery that they have been misled, misinformed, and grossly abused, by those on whose opinion they had too confidently relied. This, however, may admit of some doubts; and I have too much regard for many of those who compose it, to wish the experiment may ever be made:

Let it be considered, that every provocation we give widens the breach; that the Americans have fully shown they are the descendants of Englishmen; and if they are warm and impetuous like us, like us also they are placable; and instead of endeavouring to subdue them by force to a condition unworthy of our fellow-subjects, our countrymen, and our relations, let us open the shortest road to a speedy, honourable and effectual reconciliation.

JOHN FOTHERGILL."

The following letter, which covered the above, evinces the pains Dr. Fothergill took to prevent that disunion of the empire he had predicted and feared; and, upon this account, short as it is, it is here inserted: it was addressed, under cover, to his colleague in the transactions with Dr. Franklin.

"DEAR FRIEND,

I came home last night at ten o'clock extremely fatigued. I could not forbear giving, perhaps, a very strong proof of it. If the enclosed remarks are worthy of the least notice, or any part of them, I wish we could see one another this morning, any time before nine o'clock." J. FOTHERGILL.

8th of 10th mo. 1775.

In 1780, Dr. Franklin wrote to Dr. Fothergill's colleague the subsequent letter, which is introduced to corroborate the above narrative.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM DR. FRANKLIN TO **, DATED PASSY, FEB. 12, 1781.

"DEAR SIR,

I condole with you most sincerely on the loss of our dear friend, Dr. Fothergill. I hope that some one that knew him well, will do justice to his memory, by an account of his life and character. He was a great doer of good. How much might have been done, and how much mischief prevented, if his, your, and my joint endeavours in a certain melancholy affair, had been a little more attended to! With great respect and esteem, I am, &c."

B. FRANKLIN.

In the preceding year Dr. Fothergill published a pamphlet, intitled, "An English Freeholder's Address," which is preserved in his works: it contains sentiments further explanatory of his political character; sentiments that will ever be revered.

A mutual friendship had early commenced between Dr. Fothergill and Dr. Franklin, and continued till the death of the former.

He thus writes of him to a friend. "Our late excellent friend was always proposing something for the good of mankind. You will find instances of this kind in one of his letters, which I enclose,* the only one I can at present lay my hand on. I have some very valuable ones in America, if they are not lost in the late confusions. Just before I left England, he, in conjunction with Mr. * * and myself, laboured hard to prevent the coming

* In this letter Dr. Fothergill introduces the subject of this negociation; and, among other pertinent reflections, he suggests the importance of an uniformity of weights and measures throughout the Continent of America; taking it for granted, as he long foresaw, that she would become independent. To make these more familiar, he recommends that they should be framed of numbers easily divisible, as 4, 8, 16, 32, &c.

war, but our endeavours were fruitless. This transaction is alluded to in the first page. If we may estimate the goodness of a man by his disposition to do good, and his constant endeavours and success in doing it, I can hardly conceive that a better man has ever existed."

Whilst he thus early disapproved those political measures which have since been generally reprobated, and long afterwards expressed his sentiments to a friend of his in Yorkshire, previous to the general assembly of the county, held on the 30th of December 1779, he uniformly mentioned his sovereign in the most respectful language; it was not on men, but on measures, that he animadverted. Henry Zouch, of Sandal, in Yorkshire, a clergyman, and a justice of the peace, of distinguished reputation, was this intimate friend (and he was worthy of his confidence) to whom he addressed the following letter, which was read in a committee of the above meeting, and met with the most pointed approbation:

"Though I am very apprehensive that the subject of this letter will be of very little consequence, yet I could not easily forego an opportunity of mentioning to thyself some sentiments that have occurred to me in respect to the very important meeting about to be held at York:

I know my voice is feeble and insignificant, but being a native of the county, and having a great regard for it, on this and many other accounts, I think I ought not to be totally silent on so important an occasion, though I know there are so many persons will be present, who, in every respect but one, I acknowledge to be greatly indeed my superiors;—that one is, a disinterested and impartial regard for the good of my native county, and the influence it will hold in the great national business that will come before you:

If the motions made for retrenchments in expense are to be the basis of your deliberations and petitions, I think them altogether unworthy;—all that could be obtained in these retrenchments, either by savings to the public treasury, or abridging the power of the crown, are beneath the notice of such an assembly, even were you sure of obtaining all you have in contemplation. I am morally certain you will obtain nothing; and every unsuccessful contest dishearten the vanquished, and in proportion adds vigour to the conqueror:

Have we not seen this to be the case, in all the petitions and remonstrances that have been presented? and is it not most certain that the majority will be doubly firm against you, as their interest is so much at stake?

I consider these motions as well intended, and they may be followed by others equally economical and wise; but they will all be rejected, and those who have stood forth in their support be discouraged:

There is one necessary point, which I think you ought in the first place to state most clearly—the general decay of the county—and keep close to your own; manufactures declining, commerce languishing, value of land decaying, all public improvements at a stand, bankruptcies numerous, taxes encreasing, multitudes distressed; and, was it not for the late favourable seasons, universal poverty and wretchedness must have taken place. Pray, therefore, that peace may be restored between us and America, as the only means of saving your county from every species of calamity;—the war with that country, and its consequences, having been the general causes of these distresses. I do not mean that these expressions should be used; you will find much better: but if you do not lay the axe to the root, in vain do you attempt the branches:

Let not a single reflection on the king or the ministry escape you—I mean not to appear in your petition. The acrimony that loaded the American petitions, and disgraced many of our own, have done unspeakable mischief; I beg therefore, and earnestly entreat, that every degree of invective may be shunned. Produce your facts, and state them in the clearest light; but if you mean well to your country, and wish to see an example followed in other counties, shun every thing offensive. As there is no great room for flattery, so neither give way to the reverse temper;—if you do, posterity may load your memories with deserved reproach:

Forgive me for thus offering my sentiments to men much better informed than myself; but it is my firm opinion, from the knowledge I have of the temper of those who must be the judges of your petitions, that so sure as you deviate from a line of language, temperate yet firm, so sure will you shut a door more closely against all that you can urge; and what must be the consequence? A perseverance in the same measures, to do despite to those who condemn them. Once more, therefore, let me entreat that every thing manifestly offensive in language may be studiously avoided; that no bagatelles may be asked for, but the removal of the great cause of expense—the war with America: the lesser arrangements of economy may then be solicited, and these only take place at the decease of the present occupants:

Once more excuse me, if I am taking a liberty unbecoming me; the honour of our county, the good of the country in general, are at stake. If you ask for what is evidently great and right, your example will be followed by all; if you ask for things which you know before-hand will be refused, let your numbers be ever so great, you may possibly meet with many counter petitions, and an attempt for general reformation be stifled in its infancy." J. FOTHERGILL.

London, 8th of 10th mo. 1779.

When a man hath distinguished himself by extraordinary efforts of genius, and gained the summit of popular fame, we naturally wish to be acquainted, not only with the most interesting circumstances of his life and character, but even those which may be trifling in themselves, and which by no means would bear to be recorded, did they refer to persons of little fame; yet, when connected with a character that hath excited our admiration, or with works that we have contemplated with delight, they derive a kind of adventitious consequence from their relation, and are sought after with more avidity than greater matters of lesser men.

The person of Dr. Fothergill was of a delicate, rather than athletic make; his features were all character; peculiar brilliancy of expression [illegible] his eye [illegible] the leading trait, as to disengage it from the united whole. He was remarkably active and alert, and, with a few exceptions, enjoyed a general good state of health. He had a peculiarity of address and manner, resulting from person, education, and principle; but it was so perfectly accompanied by the most engaging attentions, that he was the genuine polite man, above all forms of breeding.

His dress was remarkably neat, plain, and decent, peculiarly becoming himself; a perfect transcript of the order, and I may add, the neatness of his mind. He thought it unworthy a man of sense, and inconsistent with his character, to suffer himself to be led by the whim of fashion, and become the slave of its caprices. But this impression upon his understanding was much strengthened by his firm attachment to his principles as a Quaker, which lead to that decent plainness and modesty in dress, which may be presumed to be one, at least, amongst the external evidences of a spirit elevated in its views above all transient and sublunary things.

At his meals he was remarkably temperate; in the opinion of some, rather too abstemious, eating sparingly, but with a good relish, and rarely exceeding two glasses of wine at dinner or supper: yet, by this uniform and steady temperance, he preserved his mind vigorous and active, and his constitution equal to all his engagements."

Religion, when it works upon the heart, and subjects the passions to the exercise of benificence, generates all those attractive graces, which can be acquired by no other medium. Rules of exterior imitation may be delineated with the elegant pencil of a Chesterfield; but the purity of the heart is the genuine source of true politeness: for that religion, which breathes *good will unto man*, whilst it refines the understanding, and softens the affections, begets a complacency from which necessarily result those amities, and that unaffected politeness, which alone should form the gentleman; such as the scholar should cultivate, and the Christian recommend; and these rendered a Fothergill beloved, respected

But the time was approaching, when neither temperance nor virtue could exempt him from the final lot of humanity. For a series of years, indeed, for the most part of his life, he had enjoyed good health, and time seemed slowly to diminish the vigour of his body, or weaken the exertion of his mind; but it was perceptible to those who were much with him, and what he often remarked himself, that fatigue became less supportable, and recruit of strength, in his annual retreats into Cheshire, was of late years more slowly acquired.

The firmest constitution, like the most perfect elastic, may be extended beyond the power of restoration. It was on the 12th day of December 1780 that he was seized with a suppression of urine, which no art could remove.

He was as serene as in perfect health; he endeavoured, indeed, to assume a degree of chearfulness, which was natural to him when well, and described his complaints, and their probable fatal termination, with a pious hope, "that he had not lived in vain, but in a degree to answer the end of his creation, by sacrificing interested considerations, and his own ease, to the good of his fellow-creatures." Some individuals might have envied the universal esteem he acquired by his virtues, his manners, and his skill in healing; and all may admire that comfort of mind which sustained him to his final dissolution, which was on the 26th day of December 1780.

A man so long, and so respectfully known, dying in the summit of celebrity, and surrounded with the caresses of a numerous acquaintance, must be deeply and universally regretted.

DISCOVERIES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN ARTS, MANUFACTURES, &c.

On the use of Iron for Stairs, and instead of the Timbers of Houses, as a Security against Fire. By Mr. Benjamin Cook.

Phil Jour. vol. 21. p. 126.

IN a former paper in the Philosophical Journal, I threw out some loose hints on the advantage of employing iron in various articles of furniture, as a substitute for mahogany, and other expensive woods. I will now add to it a mode of substituting it in the place of oak, and other less expensive woods. The chief use I would recommend it for is in stairs and stair-cases, but especially in the metropolis, where so many fires are constantly happening, and where so many lives are annually lost by them; where so many plans have been devised to [illegible] escapes, and so few, if any, that have ever [illegible]ered the end.

I have long wondered some plan has not been thought of, which provided security within doors, instead of waiting for precarious assistance from without. It is not so easy to introduce a remedy, such as I am now proposing, into houses already built; either from a parsimoniousness of the owners, or from a fancied security in the idea, that with them there is no danger, and therefore they will not go to the expense of adding a new flight of stairs, which beside the expense, will be attended with much trouble and confusion. The other class, that are likely to hinder the adoption of the remedy, are those that are not able to go to the expense of the alteration. But these persons that could afford it, and wished to provide for the danger of fire, if a probable remedy was shown them, might certainly do it; and as houses are continually altering, and new ones constantly being erected, certainly it would decrease the evil, and be introducing, if but slowly, a system that essentially would increase, and be of

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stair-cases, made mean is stairs and sheet iron combined of cast and only. The framing for the cast iron which the boards are nailed to, stairs, to in the

present mode, might all be cast, and screwed together. Of course, this framing would be considerably lighter in appearance than if made of wood. The front and top of the step, if made of sheet iron, might be attached with six or eight screws to the cast iron framing; and in order to give it a neat finish, a light bevelled moulding might run all round the front of every step, and the jointings be neatly screwed to it with small screws, with heads countersunk into the mouldings.

But if the front and top of the steps were cast in plates, which I think the cheapest and easiest way, the framing might be cast with sunk edges, so that the front and top of the steps would just fit into the grooved framing, and four or six screws would fasten them in a few moments. All the tops and fronts, when cast in a mould, would fit in the framing; and all the framing being so cast to fit, a flight of stairs would soon be put together; the plates might all be cast light, and when all screwed together, would appear a handsome mass of iron.

They who are unacquainted with the method of casting may suppose, that the sand would leave the work rough and uneven; but, if it is cast in fine sand, it would be level and uniform, and be ready for screwing together; the surfaces will be as regular as stone, when put together, and not so liable to wear smooth, and endanger a person to slip off in coming down stairs. Such stairs will certainly be much handsomer than stone, and of half the price, or less: with this advantage, the railing may match, and be made of cast iron also.

They would appear very beautiful, if well painted, to imitate mahogany, as also the railing, which might be cast in very handsome, and various fanciful patterns. There would be much scope for genius and fancy in devising and executing the stair-cases and railings, as almost any device, almost any antique figure or gothic scroll, might be tastefully introduced, forming an elegant, indeed I might venture to say, if expense was not the object, the most beautiful, and certainly the most durable stair-cases, that can possibly be formed.

Common stair-cases of iron would certainly be made as cheap, or cheaper than of oak; and I think, if a manufactory was to be established, and a regular trade made of it, they might afford them as cheap as any kind of wood, and a great deal more work might be put in them, as far as concerns the ornamental part; for the same cast, that formed only straight lines, would, by varying the mould, at the same expense, form the most beautiful specimens of antiquity. Therefore wood cannot be brought into comparison with it, on the score of taste, nor can price be admitted as an objection to its introduction. Besides, if painting was looked upon as an expense, they would always look well if brushed over with black lead; and, as all houses, except the houses of the lower orders, have carpets up the stairs, the tread would be quite as pleasant as on stairs made of mahogany; and in case of fire, a safe escape would always be ready. Dreadful must be the situation of those persons, who, waked by the cry of fire, rush to the landings, find the lower rooms are burning, the staircase blazing and falling, and no escape left but the dreadful one of precipitating themselves from a window, running the risk of being dashed to pieces, or of remaining in the house, to perish in the flames, when, if the staircase had been of iron, all might have escaped with little or no injury.

If iron was introduced for joists, rafters, and beams, they might all be cast hollow, they might all be screwed and pinned together, and have a very light appearance, at the same time possessing much more strength than wood. If the spars, on which the floor is laid, were made tight, and laid near each other, and cast with a small projecting edge on each side, at the bottom of each spar, so that, when laid down, to form the floor, a flat tile, or thin quarry, would just fit in between two spars; when all the interstices of the floor were filled up with cheap tiles or quarries made on purpose, the floor would be fire proof, and made so at a very little expense; as the spars might be cast light, there being more in number, and would be nearly, if not quite as cheap as wood

spars; and all the additional expense would be the common flat tiles, which would not be of much extra value, nor give much trouble in the laying, on which fire-proof floor the boards might be laid.

By the introducing of iron for timber, the danger of fire would be much less to be dreaded; for, if a room took fire, its contents and floor could only be destroyed, and the fire could not easily be communicated from room to room. Indeed I do not see how it is possible for it to extend. The large timbers, that now connect rooms together, would be taken away, which timbers being burnt through, the floor falls, and overwhelms in destruction the rooms and furniture below.

Floors could not fall in, if laid on iron; as only the boards on them could be burnt. Roofs could not fall in, if the beam, rafters, &c. were iron. In fact, a fire could not make its way and spread, if iron was substituted for the timbers now used in building, and few, if any lives would ever be lost, if stair-cases were made of iron also.

Birmingham. B. COOK.

Observations.

The many dreadful accidents which have happened from fire, would, it might be supposed, be sufficient to rouse mankind to some effectual measures to secure their dwellings from its ravages; but instead of the interest means for this effect should excite, the most marvellous apathy prevails, and many, on the contrary, seem to dare the devouring element, by preferring combustible substances for every possible application in and about their houses; some of which contain such large portions of timber in wainscots, partitions, stairs, floors, roofs, &c. that to those who consider the danger, they appear like the funeral piles of the ancients, only wanting a match to kindle the whole into flames, and prepare all the family at once for the sepulchral urn. We wonder at those who build their habitations on the sides of volcanoes; but is our indifference to a fiery exit much less than theirs, living as we do, at our ease, in such dangerously inflammable buildings?"

We think it therefore a duty to give Mr. Cook's paper at large on this subject, and to second his benevolent views by every means in our power, and shall therefore endeavour to procure calculations of the expense of stair-cases, &c. of cast iron, such as he proposes, to make it more evident, that obtaining security from such tremendous danger in this manner is not a dereliction of economy.

Several patents have been taken out for the application of cast iron to floors and roofs: Mr. Wyatt, and Mr. Dodd, of London, have had patents for this purpose; Mr. Norton, of Birmingham, has had one lately, and we could give a list of more, if it was any object to search the volumes which contain them. But we know of none that can impede the use of cast iron proposed by Mr. Cook.

Stone stair-cases are now erected in many of the new houses in London, which procure security so far; but there can be little doubt, cast iron stairs would cost less. It may perhaps be a satisfaction to some of our readers, to point out cast iron stair-cases, which have been many years in use, and may be seen at all times. There are two of this kind at the front of the duke of Queensbury's house, in Piccadilly, from the street to the balconies of the parlour windows: they are neatly executed, look very light, and have a good effect: they are open in front under each step, and seem to be supported by hammered iron bars, wrought to fit their inflections underneath. These short staircases might serve as models, till better should be designed. If it should be disagreeable to have them open beneath the step, though this adds greatly to the lightness of their appearance, plates of sheet iron will be strong enough to close that part; the top of the step alone need be of cast iron, the outward support may be either of cast or hammered iron, and the inner ends of the stairs may be sustained by the walls, in the same manner which stone stairs are. A light iron railing would look more uniform, though not absolutely necessary for safety, and the only part which would be best of wood is the hand-rail at the top. Paint would be

preferable to black lead for securing at least the upper surfaces of the stairs from rust, as the latter would make them so very slippery, that it would be difficult to stand on them; a carpet or oil-cloth, would, however, remove this inconvenience.

The writer of this article recollects mentioning the use of tiles for flooring over iron rafters, both to Mr. Cook and to Mr. Norton, several weeks ago. They would form both secure and cheap flooring, but laying a wooden floor over them, as mentioned by Mr. Cook, is not absolutely necessary. Tiles may be prepared for floors at the British potteries, so as to be highly ornamental, either in single patterns for each tile, or so as that several will unite to form one design, which would look at least as well as a wooden floor, or if expense was no object, the floors might be of marble or white stone; where it was an object, the plain red tiles would do sufficiently well, and where carpets or oil-cloths are used, would be in all respects equal to the others. The tiles might be fastened to the rafters by screws with nuts underneath; most flooring tiles have holes in the corners, which would answer for this purpose; but at all events they might be easily formed with them. Indeed where tiles were used for floors, wooden rafters would cause little danger of fire, for only a long continued and strong fire over the tiles, would cause heat enough to inflame the rafters through them, but iron rafters would certainly be more secure. This method of forming floors, is, we understand, common in Paris, and other parts of France, as mentioned in the paper on providing employment for the labouring poor, inserted in our last number. Where wooden rafters are used, the tiles might be screwed to them by the common screws for entering wood, which would be better than nails, as the latter would be apt to cause the tiles to be broken in driving them.

Patent of James Grellier esq. of Barking, Essex, for a Building of a peculiar Construction for the purpose of Burning Coke and Lime. Dated Feb. 1809.

The body of the lime kiln is made of the usual form in Mr. Grellier's plan, and beneath it are placed chambers of the form of common coke ovens, in which the coal is burned separately from the lime and converted into coke; flues proceed from the coke ovens to the lime kiln, by which the heat is conveyed that calcines the lime-stone. These flues are either made to enter at the bottom of the lime kiln, "the lime being prevented from descending as low as the said bottom, or floor, by an arched grating or support made of iron bars, or of brick work or other proper material; or otherwise the flues communicate, through the sides of the lime kiln, so as to burn the stone which lies above the place of their entrance. In the first case the lime is drawn out through doors, or quarters made just above the iron grating; and in the last case the lime kiln, or chamber where the lime is burned, is continued several feet below the entrance of the flues; and the burned lime is drawn out in the same manner as is done in a common lime kiln. By these arrangements it is easy to charge the kiln with lime stone, and the coke ovens with coal repeatedly; and to draw out the coke, and the lime at the proper periods so as to continue the operations of coke making and lime burning continually during any length of time.

Mr. Grellier states finally that the lime kiln and coke oven may be made to good effect of various forms, yet he prefers coke ovens of an elliptical shape so disposed in the lower part of a circular building that the longest diameter of the ellipsis, may respectively lie in radii, in one of the horizontal sections of the said building; and that the mouths of the ovens may open externally, and the flues communicate internally with one lime kiln, having its axis perpindicular to the horizon, and coincident with the axis of the building itself.

Observations. It certainly is a grievous sight to any one who knows the value of fuel, to behold the enormous wasie of it in the parts of England where coke is made. It is no exaggeration to say, that the heat which is there wasted would be

sufficient for all the various purposes to which fire is applied throughout Europe. The object of the above patent is worthy of every encouragement, tending, as it does, to employ beneficially some of this now wasted heat. Mr. Cook, the author of the foregoing paper, has made some calculations on the benefit which the use of gas lights would be in the above respects, of applying beneficially the waste of the coke manufacture, or in other words, of making coke so as to employ all the products of the coal, from whence it appears that the greatest part of the coke wanted in the iron founderies and in other businesses might be supplied in this way. The consumption of coal in the various manufactures of these kingdoms is so prodigious, that serious apprehensions have been entertained of the supply falling short, at some future period. Mr. Davy, the chemist and mineralogist, has made calculations of the extent of the coal beds of England, which show that these apprehensions are fallacious; but still this should not encourage waste, for it is evident that as the coal beds are worked deeper the expense of raising the coals must be encreased; and that the present great waste of them may therefore in time raise the price to an inconvenient height, though it may not be sufficient to cause an absolute scarcity.

Patent of Mr. Charles Seward of Lancaster, Tin-plate Worker; for a new improved Burner and Lantern head, for Street and other Lamps.

Dated July, 1809.

The head of Mr. Seward's lamp is rather flatter than ordinary, and through its centre a tube, about ten inches long and three in diameter, passes down to within two inches of the burner; the upper end of this pipe is covered by a scolloped cap, of a conical form, to exclude the wind and rain, while it allows the smoke to escape through its apertures. The rim of the cover, where it joins the glass globe (which is of the usual form) is pierced all round with a number of holes, for the admission of air; the cover shuts down over an inner rim, that is attached to the glass, but which does not rise quite so high as the cover, and being made to slope a little inwards, admits the air to pass freely between it and the outward rim, while it excludes the wind and rain; to render which purpose more effectual the holes in the outward rim are placed lower than the top of the inner rim. The reservoir for the oil is made very shallow, about three quarters of an inch deep, in order that the oil may be always near the flame, and have as little as possible to ascend up the wick. It is also of importance that the reservoir be made no larger than to contain a sufficient quantity of oil for each time of burning: it is therefore recommended that these reservoirs be made of different sizes, according to the different length of time they are required to burn; this reservoir is covered, and a part projects from it of a tubular form which contains the wick; this part is an eighth of an inch deeper than the reservoir, and the oil is also poured in through it. The wick is contained in a moveable flat tube, which reaches quite down to the bottom of the reservoir, and has notches cut in it below to admit the oil. This form of the wick tube admits of its being made very wide without the wick being liable to slide down and extinguish the light; the width of this tube should not be less than a sixth of an inch. A wide tube is necessary to make a lamp burn well with common oil, and by reaching low down, the oil is warmed and prevented from coagulating. The wick tube is soldered to a small round piece of tin, the edge of which rests on a shoulder on the inside of the projecting part, and then lies in a level with the top of the reservoir. The wick tube should not rise above an eighth of an inch above this tin plate, and its top will then be on a level with that of the projecting part.

The reservoir is suspended by wires so that the flame shall be just under the centre of the smoke tube. The wick is of the broad flat kind, called garter or riband wick, and is prepared by soaking it in tallow, and pressing out the superfluous grease, which causes it to burn more clearly and to last longer. It is then cut into pieces, a quarter of an inch longer than the wick tube; which being stiff with the tallow, are easily put into the top of the wick tubes.

Observations....This lamp is contrived on good principles; and the directions, being explanatory of the best mode of managing street lamps in general, in several useful, though minute particulars are inserted at length.

The beneficial use of the smoke tube has been long since proved in Argand's lamps; in lanterns for passages, it would be best to have these tubes of glass, as tin ones would intercept the light too much; but for street lamps, this is no object, as they are placed so high, that the descending rays are alone of any material consequence; some of these however would be interrupted by the great breadth of the reservoirs, directed in Mr. Seward's lamps, and this is the chief detect they have.

But it is probable before long, that gas lights will be alone used for lighting streets, as they are so much cheaper and more brilliant than any common lamps. The experiments in lighting the whole of Pall Mall, and some other parts of London with these gas lights, prove this in a very satisfactory manner. We are promised some communications from Mr. Cook of Birmingham on this interesting subject, which we hope to have in time for our next number.

Mr. Seward's lamps have, however, considerable merit for common use; and we are more inclined to recommend them, in hopes of their superseding those glaring glasses, of a lenticular shape, which have of late years come so much into use, in street lamps; which by throwing the light strongly in one direction, have caused a deceptive appearance of encreasing it, when in fact they really diminish the sum of that which falls on the street; and cause the light to be so unequally distributed, as to produce the most disagreeable effect on even the strongest eyes, and a very injurious one on those which are weak, by causing such abrupt transitions from intense light to comparative darkness, as renders the beautiful mechanism of the iris (placed in our eyes purposely to prevent the ill effects of such changes) of no use; as it cannot open and close sufficiently quick for the occasion.

On a Report on Natural and Artificial Puzzolano of M. Gratian Lepere, Engineer of Roads and Bridges to the French Institute, by M. Chaptal.

Annales de Chemie, tome 64. *p.* 278.

A substitute for puzzolano may be procured in three ways: 1st, by employing the remains of this kind of the extinguished volcanoes, which almost all countries produce: 2dly, by substituting some other volcanic products for puzzolano: 3dly, by giving to certain mineral substances, by calcination, all the properties of these volcanic productions.

Messrs. Desmarets and Faujas St. Fond, long ago made known some strata of good puzzalano, in the extinguished volcanoes of Auvergne and Vivarais; I also pointed out this substance in the volcanoes which separate Lodeve from Bedarieux, in the department of the Herault, and it has been employed with success in the construction of bridges and other aquatic buildings.

We may find a substitute for puzzolano in other volcanic products, such as basalt, pumice stones, &c. carefully pounded.

In 1807 M. Guyton de Morveau sent to M. de Cessart at Cherbourg, some calcined basalts, from the extinguished volcano of Drevin, in the department of the Var and Loire.—The latter proved by conclusive experiments, that they might be employed with great advantage in buildings under water.

The Dutch tarrass is a kind of pumice stone brought from Bonn and Andernach. At Dordrecht, at the mouths of the Rhine and Meuse the operation of pounding is effected.

But these resources are local, and that the manufacture of puzzolano may become general, we proceed to describe the best means of attaining it.

It would be difficult to assign the period at which pounded bricks, and the earthy residue from the distillation of aquafortis, has been substituted for volcanic puzzolano. Their use, however, has become general, particularly where there are no sea-ports in the vicinity, at which real puzzolano can be furnished; even in the south of France they prefer the

earthy residue of the distillation of aquafortis to the best puzzolanos for coating the inside of their wine backs, which are almost all of mason work, and for the cements used by individuals in hydraulic works. The earth employed in the south of France for the decomposition of saltpetre, in extracting the aquafortis from it, is an ochrey earth, very much charged with iron, and more or less reddened by the oxide of this metal.—When it is wanted for cement it is only necessary to beat it up with lime and a proper quantity of water. M. Lepere relates some experiments made at Paris by the engineers of roads and bridges, from which it appears that an immersion of eight days was sufficient for aquafortis cements to acquire a hardness fit to resist a billet of wood when forced against it with the whole strength of a man; whereas the Italian puzzolano required six weeks, before it attained the same degree of hardness.

In general the quality of the earth is better as it is more charged with iron. This last observation is equally applicable to pounded bricks; in general they do not make a good cement, unless they are well burned, and made of a very ferruginous earth.

Twenty years ago, I suggested the above substitutes for puzzolano, and the result of my comparative trials made in the port of Cette, under the inspection of the engineers of the provence of Languedoc, was published in 1787 in a memoir printed by Didot, by order of the States-general of the provence.

The means which I suggested for making this artificial puzzolano are simple, and may be put in practice almost every where. Balls should be made of the ochery earth, and be burned in a lime or potter's kiln. In order to form these balls, the earth must be moistened with a sufficient quantity of water; and when the balls are made, they should be burned until they pass from a red to a black colour, and the angles of the scales formed when they are broken exhibit sharp and shining edges.

In the same work I proposed to substitute the blackish schists, which are decomposed in the air, for puzzolanos. Those which are in cakes are best; but in all cases they must be strongly calcined, in order to give them the requisite properties.

M. Lepere relates, that M. Vitalis, professor of chemistry, and secretary to the Rouen academy, and M. Lamassen, chief engineer of the department of the lower Seine, have made most excellent puzzolano, by the calcination of some ochrey earth, in the environs of Rouen; this was effected by burning the earth in a common furnace with alternate strata of common charcoal. This puzzolano was subjected to some trials on a large scale, and it was composed in the following manner:

One part and a half of yellow calcined ochrey earth, one part and three fourths of well washed silicious sand, one part and an eighth of sour lime, two parts of chips from calcareous stone and silex.

From these and several other experiments (the proportions of which were varied) it results that the artificial puzzolano constantly exhibited the same effects as the best puzzolano of Italy. M. Lepere was an eye witness of all these comparative experiments.

There can be no doubt therefore, that where there are ochery earths, artificial puzzolano may be made with great facility.

What is called Dutch tarrass, is in many respects similar to the artificial puzzolano in question.

The ashes, or rather scoriæ, left when coals are burned, may also be applied to the same purpose. M. Guyton caused a trial to be made at Cherbourg, and it succeeded well.

M. Gratien Lepere having been entrusted, in 1804, with constructing the foundation of the new arsenal at Cherbourg, began to turn his attention to the best method of supplying the puzzolano of Italy. He knew that the Swedes had already used a very hard black slate with this view, after being twice strongly calcined in a lime kiln.

M. Lepere thought he perceived a great analogy between the Swedish stone and the rocks of Cherbourg, particularly those of port Bonaparte,

which when dug into, exhibited a black schistus, hard, ferruginous, and falling off in scales of various thickness: subsequent experiments however proved that the slaty schistus of Roule, in the environs of Cherbourg is preferable; and that good mortar may be made with the ferruginous schist of Haineville, which is inferior however to the two former.

After having multiplied and varied his experiments, in such a manner as to present positive results, M. Lepere, in conjunction with the committee of engineers appointed to examine his experiments, draws up the following conclusions:

1. That the schist of Cherbourg, when strongly calcined, and pulverised, forms an excellent mortar when mixed with sour lime:

2. That in order to give precisely the same properties to the schist, which are possessed by puzzolano and tarrass, the former must be calcined in a reverberating furnace, instead of in a lime-kiln.

Remarks....The property possessed by puzzolano of speedily becoming hard under water, when mixed with lime, in the composition of cements for aquatic buildings is now universally known, but many still suppose that this substance is only to be found in Italy, and that this property is confined to it alone; the above paper shows how mistaken these opinions are, and points out many substitutes of easy acquisition, for this useful substance. To a town rising in commercial prosperity as Belfast, this information is of considerable consequence, especially when it is considered that the materials for this water proof cement, are to be had in the greatest abundance in the vicinity of the town, as well as through most of the county of Antrim, nearly the whole of whose sub-soil is of volcanic origin. The basalt is to be found in it in all directions, and the trap-stone, which is of the same nature; the manner of using which for cement is above recited; ferruginous earths of the nature of those mentioned are also abundant; a large vein of this kind is to be found in the Cave-hill near this town; and another described by Dr. Richardson, in the front of the causeway, on the coast of Port-rush. The actual puzzolano, we are informed has been found on the same coast, but this is now of less importance, when such good substitutes for it are known. The island of Raghery also furnishes great quantities of a ferruginous earth, much of which has been used in forming cements for the grand canal company.

In London a new use of late years has been made of these cements in coating brick work so as to imitate Portland stone, and granite, which besides having a very beautiful effect, renders the buildings so formed much more durable.

Large cisterns are also prepared with it in the same place, for the reception of porter, in the porter breweries. There is one of this kind we are informed at Mr. Whitbread's brewery, beneath the surface of the earth, covered with an arch, which contains some hundred hogsheads. These cements may also be used in covering houses, they would cost much less than slates, and would be vastly more durable than thatch, besides having the advantage of not being liable to fire. They may be also used for fronting old houses, so as to improve them every way. But perhaps the most important use of such compositions here, is that for which the puzzolana was originally used in the vicinity of Rome, in the time of the ancient empire, which is for running moles into the sea. A prodigious quantity of useful land might thus be gained, at a comparative small expense, close to this town; but this is a subject of that importance to require a paper to itself. Lastly, the substances proper for these cements, which are so abundant near Belfast, might form a beneficial object of commerce from this both to Liverpool and London, where they are in much demand; but for this purpose they should be calcined and powdered, and sent over in casks ready for use, at least for the London market; in Liverpool the calcination might be performed to more advantage on the spot, on account of the greater cheapness of coals; but it would take

some time before a demand could be had for them in the unprepared state there, whereas in the mode proposed, it is supposed the sale would be readily procured.

On the manner in which Clouds are formed, and Rain caused by the discharge of the Electrical fire in Lightning; with some Remarks on Medical Electricity; by M. Cornelius Varley.

*Phil. Mag. vol.*34. *p.*161.

Mr. Varley observing it to lighten one evening frequently, without hearing thunder, went into the fields to see it more distinctly, and perceived the horizon towards the Northward lined with clouds, while there were none overhead except a few small ones, proceeding towards the lower clouds, which they soon after joined, which proves that they were on a level with it, and that a diminution was taking place in the volume of the atmosphere; for otherwise they could not have overtaken the large cloud, being too far from it to be affected by electrical attraction. At first it lightened in various parts of the mass of clouds, but more frequently in one place. Soon after this the clouds became united in one, and the place of the lightning became stationary; and then the following effect took place, which seemed distinctly to show in what manner the electrical fluid is conducted from the upper regions to the earth.

At first a small round cloud appeared behind the long dark cloud and partly above it. In this cloud it frequently lightened, and just after the light was extinguished, the electric sparks struck to the earth from the under surface of the long black cloud. This double transmission was many times repeated, till at length the lower cloud ceased to give sparks to the earth, at the spot immediately under the higher cloud, though it was still distinctly receiving them from it. I then found, observes the author, by casting my eye along the lower cloud, that every charge from the upper one travelled about four miles westward along the lower cloud, and then darted to the earth. I knew it travelled in this manner, by frequently seeing it jump over one, and sometimes over two chasms in the lower cloud, in its passage to the western end. The time it took to travel the length above-mentioned, was while I could count 20 or 30, but twice I counted 60 before it struck the earth. During the time of these observations, the higher cloud which supplied so much electricity, was not diminished in the least. On the contrary, it continued to enlarge in its dimensions, and chiefly towards the wind.

Now the quantity of electricity supplied by this cloud, continually during an hour, was probably fifty times as much, as it could possibly contain. The question then is; where did it come from? The increasing of the cloud furnishes an answer to this question; for it could not increase, without the addition of vapour, and that addition could only come from the atmosphere. This was proved by the manner and place of increase, which was at the top, and at the most prominent parts, facing the wind. The vapour, being transparent had the highest charge of electricity. The upper cloud (though positive to the under) was minus to that vapour, and silently attracting from it the superabundant electricity, which it gave off visibly to the under cloud, which was still less charged, and which was kept so by the earth (which may be considered as quite negative) immediately drawing away that charge in sparks.

Now it is evident by this progress of the electric fluid to the earth, that the electrified vapour must have been condensed to the smaller compass of the cloud, and have been deposited on its surface, occasioning that very great increase of cloud—This seems to show that a storm of lightning will always occasion a current of wind from the external regions towards itself; and hence arises the dead calm preceding a storm, and the fall of the barometer, as this is the focus of condensation.

I have frequently since, in stormy weather, seen clouds, under this effect of increase, sometimes increasing at one end, and diminishing at the other, by slow rain, when near a

mountain; but I have seldom seen the theoretic form (if I may be allowed the expression) so evident (except among mountains, where it is unlimited, but the lightning is rarely seen) as in the case I have stated; nor can this conformation be ever seen, but when the barometer is low or falling.

In a second paper, in the same number Mr. Varley thus describes another thunder storm, which is deserving of notice:

Towards the end of a fine day, the air grew thick with vapour, but exhibited no visible form of clouds. This vapour afterwards condensed into thicker masses, with faint flashes of lightning about them. The condensation then went on very rapidly, so that what was only a thick mist before, became in an hour, a large general mass of clouds; and I could now see clear sky in different parts, though at the commencement, the whole sky was covered with a faint mist. There was now a great deal of lightning between the upper and lower clouds, the effect of which was seen through the under clouds, in broad misty zig-zag flashes; and nearer the horizon were seen large sparks running along between the clouds to a great distance; the passage of the light was visible all the way, but the spark was seen distinctly at all the openings.

During the time this lightning continued, there was only now and then a little thunder, which I think is accounted for by an accompanying effect; namely, the condensation of a very rare cloud into one more dense, but yet quite elastic. The condensation may be conceived to take place by the closing together of an immense number of small parcels of clouds, as if the parts of a sponge were made to approach by pressure, and therefore with a very soft and gentle motion.

But when a spark strikes from the lowest cloud to the earth, the condensation must be into rain (for there is no intermediate state between that cloud which is already at its lowest density and rain) therefore the atmosphere has to collapse upon solid inelastic particles of rain, which must produce a sharp clap, and this every person knows to be the effect, when lightning strikes down from over our heads.

During all the day the wind had been south-west, but when the storm commenced, the wind ceased on the north east side of it, and seemed afterwards to return; for after every large flash of lightning, I felt an evident current of wind blowing towards the focus of condensation, which had settled considerably to the westward of me.

I did not see many sparks strike to the earth, but there were distant showers of rain, and it thundered and rained very hard in the night.

The principal matter worthy of notice in Mr. Varley's observations on medical electricity, is the proposal of a mode of making the electrical fire operate all over the body of the patient at once, by placing him in contact with the conductor, while insulated, in a damp atmosphere, which may be easily produced by using a pan of boiling water; but in this case the machine, that it may be kept dry, should be in another room, and the conductor should pass, insulated, through the wall, to the patient.

Remarks. The great part which electricity is now known to act in all natural phenomena, since the late discoveries of its wonderful effects in chemistry, renders all facts respecting it interesting, especially when observed with the precision the above have been. One of Mr. Davy's last theories gives reason to suppose that the air itself of the atmosphere is only water modified in a peculiar manner by electrical agency, and that on the electricity being withdrawn, the air returns again to water; but in either theory the facts related are of importance.

Mr. Varley is not quite accurate in asserting that the small clouds could not have overtaken the large cloud, but by a diminution of the volume of the atmosphere; for they might also be brought towards it by the current of air which is produced by the falling of the rain, acting in the same manner as the fall of water does in the engine called the water-blast, which would cause one current

of air towards the raining cloud above, and another from it beneath at the surface of the globe; which latter is often observed by mariners, in those squalls which accompany detached showers falling in their vicinity.

The great effect which the abstraction of the electric fire from the air is now proved to have in causing rain to descend, makes the opinion of some philosophers more probable, that means will be yet discovered for producing this precipitation artificially; which considered impartially is not a greater exertion of human intellect, than the securing buildings from the stroke of lightning, by conductors. If ever this discovery takes place in a form sufficiently cheap and practicable for use, it may produce the greatest and most beneficial effects for the benefit of mankind in various parts of the earth, covering with plenty those arid regions which are now useless from incessant drought; and, what perhaps is of more consequence, diminishing the sum of human misery caused by temporary droughts in those countries where rain is usual.

It is probable that large electrical kites, with air balloons attached to them, to make them ascend higher, would have some effect in this way, especially when sent up from the tops of lofty hills. That the importance of the benefit in view would render the experiment worth trial, cannot be denied: it would at least be a more rational application of the balloon than what has of late years been made of it; as in general it has only been applied to gratify the curiosity of some individuals, as to the sensation the ascent would cause; which seems not to have been very agreeable, as they have been on most occasions in as great a hurry to descend to the ground from the higher regions, as they have been eager at first to rise to them.

Account of the Use of the Oxymuriatic Gas in the Fumigating Army Hospitals. In a letter from M. Chameron to M. Guyton.

Annales de Chemié, tom. 64. p. 172.
Posen, Aug. 18. 1807.

M. Desgeneltes, the physician general to the army, gave me the following instructions: "I request that when the hospitals are crowded, or when low fevers prevail, you may use the fumigations with the hyper-oxygenated muriatic acid, according to M. Morveau's process. This valuable preventative has been very improperly rejected, and has been thought useful only when contagious diseases were completely developed. I request you to inform me when this purifying remedy is put in practice?"

In consequence of this letter, I constantly recommended these fumigations in the wards of the hospitals to which I was attached. The instructions for health inserted in the last Pharmaceutical formula, for the use of military hospitals, seem to make this measure subordinate to the removal of the patients from the infected place, and successively changing their beds from room to room. Circumstances, however, may occur to prevent these measures from being adopted, and it is important to simplify the operation as much as possible. Without occasioning, therefore, any removal of the patients, the hyper-oxygenated muriatic gas may be used morning and evening without inconvenience. An attendant may carry backward and forward an earthen vessel containing some muriat of soda and manganese, and cold sulphuric acid, taking care to stir it frequently with a spatula.

Neither the attendants nor the patients have ever suffered any bad effects, in my presence, from the pungency of the fumigation. Some windows may, however, be opened, to give vent to the fumigation, but if the weather be cold this may be dispensed with; and the influence of the fumigation partly depends upon its being some time confined within a close place.

An accident happened lately in a military hospital, where perfect salubrity had previously reigned: a church, which had been converted into a fine ward, with sixty beds for chronic diseases, was infected with a fœtid smell, which exhaled from the ground, on account of a vast burying vault having been overflown by the bursting into it of a cess-pool. The sick and wounded were instantly re-

moved; the vault was cleaned and fumigated as well as possible, and the fumigations were repeatedly made in the church itself with its doors closed. In four or five days it was necessary to fill it again with patients, and the fumigations were continued for a week; no contagion was perceived

In my opinion the instructions in the the formula above alluded to, are not sufficiently explanatory, with respect to the preservative effect of the hyper-oxygenated muriatic gas, I found it had also the property of killing vermin; and it ought to be applied to the clothes of the sick soldiers, which are laid up on their coming into the hospital. Beside flies, which annoyed us much in Poland, we were also dreadfully afflicted with fleas and bugs, and on applying the above fumigations, they were all found dead.

Letter from M. Benoit Majon, chief Physician to the Military Hospital at Genoa, on the same Subject.

Genoa, Aug. 20, 1807.

Two months ago a contagious dysentery made its appearance in the military hospital at Genoa, and almost all the patients under my care, amounting to about two hundred, were all attacked. As it is generally allowed that when dysentery is contagious, it is owing to an indiscriminate use of the same privy, I was anxious to try if fumigations of oxygenated muriatic acid had the effect of destroying the contagious exhalations which produce dysentery in healthy as well as in diseased subjects. With this view I caused the privies in the hospitals to be fumigated twice a day, and succeeded in destroying this contagion in a few days. Contagious dysentery being of frequent recurrence in the hospitals of Genoa, it is likely that I shall have frequent opportunities of witnessing the happy effects of similar precautions.

Remarks. The beneficial effects of the acid fumigations in destroying the contagion of infectious fevers are now universally known; even the yellow fever has yielded to its powerful influence, and there is reason to think that the plague itself, if not entirely eradicated by it, might, at least, be much checked by its timely use.

In the above paper we have an account of two or three new applications of the acid fumigations, well worth notice, particularly that in which it succeeded so well in stopping the progress of dysentery, a disorder so often fatal in our armies, that we think it a duty of humanity to give the fact every publicity in our power. The other new discovered benefit of the acid fumigation, though of less consequence, yet is of no small value, as contributing so much to cleanliness and comfort; the great difficulty of removing bugs where they have once become numerous, is well known, but the easy and effectual method of doing this, by the acid fumigation above mentioned, promises, when sufficiently known and practised, to completely remove this nuisance from society.

New and excellent method of Packing young Fruit and other Trees for carriage. By Mr. Wm. Curtis.

Phil. Mag. vol. 34. *p.* 156.

Mr. William Curtis, of the Botanic garden, Brompton, has lately been rewarded by the Society of Arts, &c. for his valuable application of the long white moss of the marshes (the *sphagnum palustre* of Linnæus) to the packing of young fruit and other trees for exportation. He does this by squeezing out part of the moisture from the moss, and laying courses of it about three inches thick, interposed with other courses of the trees (previously shortened in their branches and roots) stratum super stratum, until the box is filled, when the whole must be trodden down, and the lid properly secured. The trees will need no care, even during a voyage of ten or twelve months; the moss being wonderfully retentive of moisture, and seeming to possess an antiseptic property, which totally prevents fermentation and putrefaction from taking place: and in fact vegetation actually proceeds during the time the young trees remain so enclosed, shoots being formed both from their branches and roots, which however are blanched and tender for want of light and air;

and in consequence, the trees, on being planted, require to be gradually inured to the open air. This moss is very common in most parts of Europe and America, which renders this application of it more facile, and the discovery more important.

Advantage of the use of Cock's foot grass.

At the annual sheep-sheering at Holkham, in Norfolk, J. W. Coke, esq. M. P. recommended, as deserving particular attention, the cultivation of Cock's-foot grass, and a little Dutch clover with it. It had maintained in capital condition, ever since the turnips were consumed, seven sheep per acre, and would have carried more. The cock's-foot grass Mr. Coke most highly recommended as far preferable to rye-grass, which was a much more exhausting crop, would not carry so much stalk, and consequently the more manure being thus put on the land, the corn crop was greater. As a proof its strong vegetative power, a plant of cock's foot, constantly cut down close for twenty-two days, grew every twenty-four hours one inch in height, and shooting most luxuriant branches, afforded more abundant food than rye-grass. Mr. Coke recommends of the cock's-foot for seed, two bushels an acre, and eight pounds of Dutch clover.

Observations. Many other grasses would probably be found beneficial to farmers, as well as the above; among which we take this opportunity to recommend to their notice the sweet-leaved astragalus (astragalus glyciphyllus). We understand Mr. Arthur Young, of England, has a very high opinion of it; and a gentleman of considerable botanical knowledge, a friend of the writer's, has mentioned it to him, as possessing properties for the food of cattle, which set it far above most grasses in use.

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

LINEN NECESSARY FOR "THE RESURRECTION."

IN one of the parishes of Dublin, the clerk having officiated many years, considered himself fairly entitled to be regulator of the ceremonies of the parish church at least; and if he was not a second P. P. was not far from it. Among the several curates, who had sucessively been initiated during the clerk's residence, a worthy young clergyman from the country, a friend of the writers, was one; shortly after he had engaged in that sacred function, a poor man died, at whose burial, of course, neither scarf nor hatband were given, as is customary there at the funerals of those whose friends can afford it. The worthy curate was going on with the funeral service, over the body of the poor man, in the same way as he had been accustomed in the country, never suspecting that in that awful ceremony any refinements could have taken place. What then was his surprize, on coming to the words, "I am the resurrection and the life," to be suddenly accosted by the clerk, in a loud whisper, with stop, sir! stop! *we never give "the resurrection and the life," in our parish, when there is no linen.*

ERRONEOUS MEDICAL PRACTICE.

In 1711, Joseph I. the emperor of Germany, an amiable prince, in the thirty-second year of his age, fell a victim to the ignorance of his physicians, who, while he was ill of the small-pox, swathed him in twenty yards of English scarlet broad cloth, when the disorder was at the height.

JUST APPRECIATION OF BIRTH-DAY ODES.

This same prince disliked flattery, and suppressed the accustomary compliments in such productions, "I come, said he, not to listen to praises, but to hear music."

ENGLISH BULL.

A woman having received some ill usage from her landlady, in the vicinity of Clerkenwell, London, had her summoned before the justices at the sessions held there. The injured woman proved to be a sailor's widow, and there was

no other circumstance particular in the affair, it being one of those numerous petty quarrels, which the ill temper and litigiousness of the lower orders in London, so often bring before the inferior courts.

A barrister was, however retained by the sailor's relict, who laid hold of her connection with the sea service to expatiate on our victorious navies, and glorious naval heroes, concluding his eloquent harangue, with observing, that while our brave seamen were fighting our battles, and so valiantly defending us at sea, the least we could do in return, was to protect from ill usage, their *widows* on shore.

TRUE NO MEANING PUZZLES MORE THAN SENSE.

Sir George Saville made the following lines extempore, at the request of Mrs. Burke, as absolute nonsense. C. J. Fox, after long puzzling himself with them, maintained that they had a meaning but he could not find it out.

"I grant, indeed, says learn'd De Grey,
That he who can, may also may;
But he who can, both may and can,
Is surely more than mortal man;
For can may, may, but may can never can."

FRENCH LITERATURE DEFEATED BY IRISH GENIUS.

Communicated by a Gentleman at Maynooth.

In the 15th century, when the Roman Catholic religion prevailed throughout Europe, the sciences were taught by the most distinguished men of the age, in the University of Paris. Doctor B. professor of Theology, was at that time much esteemed for his sound erudition, and accurate knowledge of the holy Scriptures. His agreeable and pleasing manners, procured him the friendship of a numerous and respectable acquaintance. Fond of improvement, and anxious to know the customs of other nations, he formed a strong resolution of travelling. He obtained a special grant from his sovereign, which specified that every college in the French empire, incapable of answering his objections, should forfeit a sum of money, adequate to convey him to the nearest seminary. Thus fortified, our hero bids a long farewell to his dreary monastic mansion, and proceeds on his journey with the greatest alacrity. This ornament of literature, was successful in every part of the French empire. His patent, or grant, was confirmed by the consent of all the European princes. It is necessary to remark, that it was very difficult to foil this hero's arguments. He disputed in mystic theology, *that is*, by signs. By this time his fame had diffused itself through Europe. He visited England, in order to crown his victory with all the honours of a triumph. But he was not endowed with prophetic intelligence, because in this country, he dashed against a rock, which retarded his further progress. The king of England received him with the greatest marks of respect, and attended him in person to Oxford university. His arrival being proclaimed in the university, confusion and terror affected its doctors very sensibly. These systematical disputants were obliged to send for a baker, who lived in the town, and who had been a very arch fellow. The baker found no reluctance in coming forward against this formidable antagonist. He attended the examination hall, ornamented with all the insignia of a young student. After a delay of a few minutes, the boasted genius entered the hall, assuming the *consequence* of a demi-god. The poor baker beheld him with an eye of pity, and received him with the courtesy of a genuine Irishman. This baker was born in Maghera Saul (county Down.) During the contest no person was permitted to remain. The dispute continued during the course of an hour, when the *pantomime* professor retired, and gave a full explication of his thesis. He granted his defeat, and the superior abilities of his competitor. The question in dispute he explained to the following effect. In the first place, said this learned *maitre*, I began to eat an apple, to inform my antagonist that by eating the prohibited fruit, Adam and Eve had forfeited their original innocence, in consequence of which, we their posterity, were conceived and born children of wrath. He immediately conceiving what I wished to communicate, took bread and began to eat, in order to instruct me that Christ assumed human nature, and instituted the sacrament of the Eucharist (of bread) which was the bread of life. I then

erected one of my fingers, to show him, that there existed only one God. He erected two fingers, to prove that there were two natures in God, viz. the divine and human nature. I afterwards erected three fingers to inform him, that there were three persons in God. He judiciously contracted his fingers in a close union, to show that these three persons were all united in the same God-head, and also that they were equal in all things.

After this exposition of the French hero, it was thought prudent to have the bakers opinion on this important question. He declared, *by his soul*, that he never was so angry in his life, as to see the *little fop* strutting about with so many *coxcomical* airs. When I perceived the *little fellow* commence to eat his apple, to show the nice delicacies the inhabitants of France enjoyed, I began to eat a piece of good bread, to *let him know*, that we lived on the *substantial* produce of the wheat. You must observe, gentlemen, that at present, I am deprived of the sight of my left eye. This *coxcomb* wishing to insult me, held up one of his fingers to tell me that I was a *blinkard*; I held up two of mine, to inform him, that I was born with two eyes, like the rest of mankind. He unwilling to desist from his sport, held up three fingers, to show that my one eye and his two made only three; I closed my fist to inform him, *that if he did not take to his scrapers* as soon as possible, I should give him *a damned good dressing*.

This explanation of the baker excited a great deal of laughter, and the crest-fallen hero returned to his native country, verifying the title of my Anecdote; *French literature defeated by Irish genius.* S.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE DEVIL AND THE CRITICAL REVIEWER.

A TALE.

THE Devil and a Critic met
All on a stormy day,
And soon to Mawman's* shop they came,
For they had much to say.

Mister Mawman, gay and sprightly,
Welcomed in each well-known guest;
Handed each a chair politely,
Bowed, and kind regards express'd.

Said the Critic then, "Friend Cloven-foot,
Great patron of the nation,
'Tis time for all my service past,
To yield due compensation:

Each day, for years I've laboured hard,
Full nineteen hours and more, sir,
I rail at all, priest, statesman, bard,
'Till every limb is sore, sir:

My brain is now a bankrupt turned,
Or else has changed to lead, sir,
I'm shunned and hated, kicked and spurn'd,
And not a morsel of bread, sir!

You know full well, in the service of hell,
I work with zeal most fervent,
And in all this proud metropolis
I'm your most faithful servant."

"Aye, aye," quoth Nick, "You've done your part,
Since you commence'd the *trade*, sir,
Drive dark despondence from your heart,
And you shall be repaid, sir:

Now to my counsels sage and wise,
I pray you lend attention;
To profit by the critic art,
There's nothing like invention:

It crowns the coward's head with bays,
And saves the wretch from danger;
The upstart equal's to my lord,
And knights the gentle stranger†:

See C——ke and Y——ke, a pretty pair,
The nation's great example!
Such profits from commissions share,
They roll in riches ample:

Invention gives a flow of words,
In place of argumentation;
It is the statesman's faithful friend,
By which he robs the nation:

It softens woman's tender heart,
It imps the poet's pinion:
All hail, Invention! glorious art,
Best friend of my dominion."

"Ah! well you know," the Critic cries,
"I can invent most rarely,
And no one e'er accused me yet
Of criticizing fairly:

* The *learned* and *ingenious* publisher of the Critical Review.

† Does the infernal king allude to the Stranger in Ireland?

No work of genius, truth, or taste,
E'er 'scapes my castigation;
The better cause appears the worse,
By lies and misquotation:

The title is enough for me,
To censure authors' vanity;
And tho' I ne'er peruse a word,
I prove his labours all absurd."

"Aye, that will do," quoth Cloven-foot,
"You are a sage reviewer,
You as far surpass, as a mule does an ass,
Both Cobbet and Pursuer*.

But have you seen this famed review,
Rough Caledonia's glory?
It might full many a hint supply,
For wit, and sense, and story?"

The Critic replies,
With a volley of sighs,
"Oh! there I have been a great poacher,
And so much have I stole,
That I swear by my soul,
My conscience is turned my reproacher."

"Your conscience! fye! you silly man!
Did Critic e'er since his art began
Betray such folly, weakness, nonsense,
As to think about his conscience?
Such hum-drum stuff of priests and fools,
The growth of nurseries and schools;
The woman's fear and the coward's dread--
Where has the Critic's courage fled?

Of conscience beware,
'Tis a pit and a snare,
This, this, my dear honey,
Has caused lack of money;
But now make good speed,
And learn backward to read†,
As I often have taught you to pray."

"That too I have tried,"
The Critic replied,
And for it full dear did I pay:
The author in fury,
'Tis truth I assure ye,
With a sprig of shillela so pummell'd my brain,
By the life of St. Patrick, I yet feel the pain."

The Devil grinned, and he showed his teeth,
For pleased was he beyond measure;
For Nick is a wit, and likes a good bit,
But politeness suppress'd his pleasure.

"Your case is hard," he answered straight,
"But have good resolution,
The day will come—roll on ye years,
And end his persecution!

See Erin's bards now numerous grown,
They harp with joy and madness;
Attack them all, both great and small,
And change their notes to sadness.

Gods, how they'll stare! their strings they'll tear,
And make their old harps rattle:
See, see, they rise, and from their eyes
They dart the fires of battle.

The storm is o'er—soft, Mawman, soft!
From ev'ry harp behold, sir,
A wond'rous tree, the Critic's fee,
All teeming with apples of gold, sir."

The Critic sighed, and again replied,
"Alas! 'tis all delusion!
No golden tree there grows for me,
But shillelas and confusion!

The bards of green Erin are all grown so wise,
That Critics like me they neglect and despise—
Mister Mawman knows well,
'Tis the truth that I tell,
Not a man of them all puts a groat in his purse,
But they damn his reviews, and his Critics they curse."

Old Nick was tickled much to see,
This eminent believer,
So much perplex'd, distressed and vex'd,
For Nick's a gay deceiver.

"And then," quoth he, "I plainly see,
Of learning you've great store, sir,
You have learn'd so fast that my hopes you've surpass'd,
And I can teach you no more, sir:

By the toe of the Pope,
You have now nought to hope;
And now, to be brief,
Rogue, apostate, and thief!
You traitor to country, to king, and to church,
Your measure is full, and you're fast in my lurch."

The windows rattled as he spoke,
And awful peals of thunder broke;
The fire turn'd blue with a sulphurous smell,
And dark was the frown of the Prince of Hell.

He whisked his sulphur-powdered tail
Around the shop, like a twirling flail;
He roll'd his red eye, and his long tusks he ground,
And thrice did he spring with a furious bound.

Mister Mawman, blue and whitely,
Stood aghast, with haggard looks;
Ah! no more the gay and sprightly;
Much he trembled for his books.

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* The renowned author of the Pursuits of Literature.

† One of the Critical Reviewers did a friend of the author's the *honour* of informing him, that he was in the habit of reading the books which he reviewed *backwards*.

Astonished, confounded,
With furies surrounded,
The Critic was seized with despair,
And fast smote his knees, and erect stood his hair.

At length he summoned courage up,
Tho' the flame still turn'd the bluer,
"O, good Sir Cloven-foot," he prayed,
"O spare a poor Reviewer!"

"You lie," the Devil quick returned,
"Altho' you mean to be civil,
Politeness may do with an Irishman,
But it will not do with the Devil*.

"Did you, apostate, traitor, knave,
E'er hear a bard's petition,
Who humbly did your mercy crave,
To save him from perdition?
Shall I then listen to your prayer?
No, come along with me, sir,
The bards of hell shall nettle you well,
And that you soon shall see, sir:
Mister Mawman so blue,
With your friend I'll prepare a hot lodging for you."
He seiz'd the Critic by the hair,
And out of the door he sprung, sir,
And he bore him along thro' the desert air,
And his cries o'er the city rung, sir:
And every street repeated the cry,
(No tale was ever truer)
"O spare me, spare me, Cloven-foot,
O spare a poor Reviewer."

THE COTTAGE.

By the Rev. Mr. L. of Chester.

BY the side of a stream, at the foot of a hill,
In a neat little cot, that was join'd to a mill,
Liv'd a family, blest with sweet smiling content,
And the neighbours caress'd them wherever they went.

For old Ralph was a man of devotion and truth,
Who had walked with his God, from the morning of youth,
And the close of his life, like an evening in May,
Seem'd to promise the cloudless return of the day.

His dear Mary, whom life had made languid and pale,
Was once famed for her beauty, the rose of the vale:
She was pious, and cheerful, kind-hearted and free,
And as stedfast in friendship, as mortal could be.

All her household affairs, she could manage with ease,
And the joy of her heart, was her husband to please;
At the church, in the village, at market and fair,
They were known by the name, of the old happy pair:

Heaven blest them with children, but took them again,
So that now only Ralph and his partner remain;
Their best hopes were on high, and they feared not the grave,
For they leaned on an arm that was mighty to save.

When the stranger sat down, by the side of the way,
Overcome by his toils, or the heat of the day,
Poor old Ralph would invite him with hearty good will,
To take rest in the cottage, that stood by the mill.

When the cold blast of winter roam'd fearfully round,
And the oaks of the forest were torn from the ground,
When the snow-drifting cloud in the valley was spread,
And the dark shades of night filled the traveller with dread.

In poor Ralph's little cottage a shelter he found,
Where the neat blazing hearth shed its lustre around,
While in sweet social converse the night stole away,
And the traveller forgot all the toils of the day.

They had no secret hoards, for they pitied the poor,
And the stranger was never refus'd at their door,
Forty summers they lived on that sweet little spot,
And the owners of kingdoms might envy their lot.

But, alas! unexpected their old land-lord died,
And his heir, a young upstart, the vassal of pride,
Said poor Ralph's little cottage disfigured his grounds,
For he, there had determin'd to kennel his hounds.

So the mill and the cottage were ordered away,
And poor Ralph and his partner no longer could stay;
Though resigned, yet they wept, as they walked up the hill,
When the workmen began to demolish the mill.

To the poor-house they went, where each ev'ning they're seen,
Leaning out of the window that looks o'er the green,
Where their cottage once stood, and are oft heard to say,
While they sigh from the heart, well-a-day! well-a-day!

L'ENFANT DE VENUS.

QUI desinera cet enfant,
Aussi vieux que la monde,
Marmot, don't l'empire comprend,
Les cieux, la terre, et l'onde,
Qui, les yeux couverts d'un bandeau,
Lit dans nos cours, tint la flambeau,
Qui consume, et faconde.

Ce'st lui qui celebroit Sapho,
Q'u on adoroit a Cnyde,

---

* His sooty majesty seems here to allude to the circumstance of an Irish author having written a *polite* letter to the Critical Reviewers, requesting a *fair review* of his works—and being answered in a stile of unexampled ferocity.

Qui celebroit la nymphe Echo,
Bruloit la Nereide,
Desarmoit il le dieu de l'enfer,
En taureau changoit Jupiter,
Fesoit filer Alcide.

Qui rend si fier, qui rend si doux,
Si tendre, si coquette,
Si confiant, et se jaloux,
Si vive, et si discrette,
Qui cede tout pour tout gagner,
Qui si soumit, pour mieux regner,
Qu' on fuit, et qu' on regrette.

Qui par fois, emouvoit la pitié,
Par fois, benit sa chârme,
Tantot ressemble a l'amitié,
Et tantot, a la haine,
Qui s'alemente de rigueurs,
Expire en comble des faveurs,
Feu celeste! ombre vaine!

A Translation required.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

Among the most affecting stories of ancient romance, is the beautiful episode of Argalus and Parthenia, in "Sydney's Arcadia," which is founded on a traditional tale of a Lady Montacute; who, in 1456, jousted *en Cavalier*, at a tournament in Berwick. An unpublished poetical romance commemorating this latter circumstance, has been found among the papers of a literary person, from which the following extract is given to the Belfast Magazine.

* * * * * *

BRIGHT rose the sun in robes of light,
To woo the blushing morn,
The spangling dew-drops gemm'd the plain,
And sweetly smell'd the thorn.

When Eldra rose, whose trembling heart,
Beat high with doubt and fear,
And oft she heav'd a bursting sigh,
And dropp'd a silent tear.

So wild appear'd her bold emprize,
With such sure dangers fraught,
That death seem'd now her only hope,
Her refuge even from thought.

Arise, she cried, my faithful page,
I hear the trumpet call,
This day shall end thy toil and pain,
By wretched Eldra's fall.

With trembling hand, her burnish'd helm,
Upon her head she placed,
That lovely head more fit to be,
With flow'ry chaplet grac'd.

Then soon they reach the spacious lists,
Where many a gallant knight,
Cours'd gayly on his warrior steed,
Impatient for the fight.

There Scottish lords, of noble race,
In gorgeous arms array'd,
And high-born English gentlemen,
Their wealth and power display'd.

As lilacks near a grove of oaks,
Their slender branches rear,
Even so amid the martial throng,
Did Eldra's form appear.

Then loud the signal trumpet blew,
The tourney to begin,
When foremost in the lists she saw,
Sir Mandlebert ride in.

But oh, how alter'd was his dress,
From what she'd seen before,
For costly now was his attire,
And rich the arms he wore.

Bright diamonds round his golden casque,
Their beaming lustre spread,
And lofty plumes of white and blue,
Wav'd graceful o'er his head.

Upon his shield a ruby heart,
Entwin'd with chaplets shone,
And round it was his motto trac'd,
"I bend to love alone."

But what more strange to Eldra seem'd,
Was that the knight had on;
That very scarf which he as prize,
At Bartram castle won.

From pride, she said, he wears my scarf,
To boast his victory,
And never did he put it on,
For any love of me.

Next came a noble knight of Wales,
Sir Lewin was his name,
Well known at many a solemn joust,
For deeds of peerless fame.

His armour black was barr'd with gold,
A lion grac'd his shield,
And round was written this device,
"The valliant scorn to yield."

And three bold knights did he unhorse,
With dauntless might and main,
Next challeng'd he Sir Mandlebert,
Who fell'd him to the plain.

Despair and love to madness grown,
Fair Eldra's bosom fir'd
And all the strangers manly charms,
Anew her heart inspir'd.

Then wildly rushing through the crowd,
To Mandlebert she cried,
Prepare, bold knight, for soon this arm,
Shall check thy haught and pride.

Cease, gentle youth, the knight replies,
Thou canst not vie with me,
For well I wot, thy form and years
With combat ill agree.

Shame on such boasting vain she cries,
Ev'n though my years be few,
I well might couch a shining lance,
With better knights than you.

They rest their spears but Eldra's arm,
Could ill its weight sustain,
And with the first light blow he cut,
Her helmet-brace in twain.

Down dropp'd the casque, her yellow hair,
In many a curling fold,
Around her graceful shoulders fell,
Like strings of waving gold.

But ah! the ruthless sword had pierc'd
The helmet clasps between,
And trickling from her snowy neck,
A crimson stream was seen.

Ill fall thee! shriek'd the frantic Page,
That caus'd her blood to flow,
That paid with cruelty and death,
A heart that loved thee so.

Wild horror rent Lord Derwent's breast,
He vaulted from his horse
Snatch'd to his heart her dying form,
And bore her from the course.

Press'd in his arms, life's ebbing tide,
Flush'd her pale cheek again,
As through some tissue's changing dye,
Soft crimson shades are seen.

But as the rosy tint of eve,
Faints with night's dark'ning hue,
Thus fleeting at the approach of death,
The varying colour flew.

To say a last, a fond adieu,
With quivering lips she tried,
But life's last fluttering throb was o'er,
She sigh'd—look'd up—and died.

Here drop the pen—here cease the tale—
Words cannot tell the rest,
A lover's, parent's, griefs are felt
By tears and silence best.

AN ELEGY,

ON THE DEATH OF MR. DAVID MOORE, OF LARNE,

A young man, of whose character, it is not enough to say that it was unblemished, it was *actively* good; and whose death is not only afflicting to his friends, but a real loss to society.

HARK! from the hallow'd banks of Inver's stream,
With deep and sullen sound, yon mournful knell,
Proclaims how, waked from life's unstable dream,
Lamented MOORE has bade the world farewell!

Ah! youth belov'd! to thee the verse is due,
If goodness e'er could prompt the Poet's tongue,
Goodness like thine, alas! unknown to few,
Too rare a subject for the votive song.

Remote from wild ambition's guilty way,
In virtue's vale thy nobler course was held;
No sordid wish e'er taught thy steps to stray,
Nor vicious passions in thy breast rebell'd.

No tale of sorrow ever met thine ear,
But touch'd thy sympathizing heart with grief;
No object of distress was ever near,
But from thy ready hand obtained relief.

Oft as the patriot feelings in thy mind
Griev'd for the woes that bade thy country groan,
Thy milk of kindness streamed for all mankind,
And wail'd the sorrows of the race thy own.

Thine was no formal cold benevolence,
Which but in vain professions makes a show;
Ah! no; it sought a nobler recompense
Than human approbation can bestow.

But ne'er averse the social joys to share,
When innocence would with these joys unite;
Good-nature still thy presence would endear,
And from thy converse ever flow'd delight.

Then is it strange to hear the swains relate,
With heavy hearts, those virtues now no more?
Ah! no; indulge them—let them mourn the fate,
That from their view so soon those virtues tore.

To yonder sacred walls behold they go;
His dear remains reluctant on are mov'd;
Each down-cast eye betrays a heart of woe;
How sad such duty to a youth belov'd;

To see his father, venerably mild,
While in his breast the struggling anguish spreads;
To mark his mother mourn her darling child,
To view the lovely tears his sister sheds;

And, ah! the orphans whom he sav'd, to view
Their much-lov'd benefactor's bier attend,
Say, can our hearts the rising grief subdue,
Nor mourn the saint, the patriot, and the friend!

But, lo, in yonder glorious realms he reigns,

Thron'd with the monarchs of the blest abode!
Such the reward a life like his obtains,
The praise of angels, and the smiles of God!

Larne, Oct. 1809. M'ERIN.

A MICHAELMAS RIDDLE.

"*Da nuces pueris.*".....OVID.

DIC mihi nomen animalis,
Plumatique, et bipedalis;
Quod, ultimum iter, urbem latum,
Michaelis festo perdit fatum.
Cujus pennæ alent multos,
Juvant doctis, terrent stultos;
Plumæ formant id quod Hymen,
Dat devotis; et lenimen
Defessis duro est labore,
Ægritudine, dolore;
In quo vitam subibamus,
Et ærumnas terminamus.

NEMORENSIS.

FOREIGN LITERATURE.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Langsdorff to Dr. Nochden, dated from Port St. Peter and Paul, in Kamtschatka, the 6th of June, 1805.

WE left Kamtschatka in the month of September, 1804, and sailed for Japan; a country that has scarcely been visited in a scientific view, except by Kæmpfer and Thunberg. All who have any opportunity of going thither will find, that the former did more with regard to the history and description of the country than would seem possible; and the latter has published such a flora of it, as no one can expect to equal.

On proceeding to Japan we had planned many fine schemes and formed the most flattering expectations. But on our arrival at Nangasacki, while we were treated in the most honourable manner, we were prisoners in the lodgings assigned us; and were guarded with the utmost strictness, being deprived of all communication with the inhabitants, except a few Dutch interpretors; and at length when the Emperor's answer arrived from Yeddo, we were loaded with presents and very politely dismissed.

Thus we could hardly think of making excursions in quest of subjects of natural history. Besides we were at Japan only during the winter months, from October 1804, till April 1805. We were furnished gratis with provision, and every thing that could be necessary to supply our wants; but we were not allowed to purchase the smallest trifle. Fortunately, ichthyology, one of my favourite branches of natural history, is closely allied with the demands of the kitchen. Accordingly I took care to desire the man, who daily brought provision to our state prison, to supply us with as many different kinds of fish as the season and the markets could furnish. In this way I was enabled to procure, during the last three months, about four hundred of the rarest fish in the Indies, and among them were about an hundred and fifty different species. I transmit to Mr. Blumenbach, for the present, a short account of such as are already known; and I hope another time to send him one of the new species.

Our return from Japan to Kamtschatka was do doubt one of the most interesting voyages that can now be made. We ran down and examined the north-west coast of Japan, which was hitherto unknown. We determined with precision the position of the strait of Sangoar. We reconnoitred all the west coast of Matzumai. The north part of this island, though under the government of the Japanese, is not inhabited by them, but by another people, known in Europe by the name of long-haired *Curibes*,* who call themselves *Aeenoes*. The part of Matzumai inhabited by them is called Yeso, whence the islands of Yeso and Matzumai are frequently confounded with each other. The Peak of Lamanen

* See Blumenbach de Generis Humani varietate nativa, ed. 3. p. 29.

of la Peyrouse does not belong to the Continent, as he imagined, but forms a separate island.

We crossed la Peyrouse's strait, stood to the north, and entered the deep bay of Sagalene (gulf of Aniwa) formed by the two promontories Crillon and Aniwa. It was not visited by la Peyrouse, but we now know, that the Japanese settlements extend to it, for we found a regular Japanese factory there. This country is inhabited by the Aeenoes mentioned above. The figures of the inhabitants of Sagalene in de Langle Bay, published by la Peyrouse, are very characteristic, and may give an idea of the inhabitants of Matzumai likewise, except that these do not actually shave the crown of the head, but merely cut the hair shorter there than behind, and on the sides. These Aeenoes however have not longer hair than many Europeans, if we leave their long beards out of the question.

We had intended to explore all the eastern coast of Sagalene (called also Seghaleen, and Tchoka) but when we reached the vicinity of Patience-bay, we found the sea still covered with an immense quantity of floating ice, though toward the end of May, so that it was impossible for us to continue our voyage; accordingly we were obliged to put into the harbour of St. Peter and Paul, in order to wait for a more favourable season for examining these coasts. Yesterday we arrived here for the second time, and I hasten to write to you to day.

We had long been anxious to receive letters from Europe. Yours afforded me infinite pleasure, but I regret, not having received that you addressed to me at Rio Janeiro: it missed me, because we did not put in there, but at St. Catharine's. This prevented me from availing myself of the good instructions which you and Mr. Blumenbach then sent me. But this I can assure you, that with respect to plants, particularly the ericæ, asplenia, &c. as well as the marine families, I have made a point throughout the whole voyage of collecting with great care and industry, and storing them up in my herbal. My collection of insects too is very considerable; but I have been able to do little with respect to mineralogy, as the coasts wherever we have anchored, have been barren in this respect, and we have not been able to penetrate into the country.

Aulic counsellor Tilesius, who is an excellent draughtsman, has copied many subjects of natural history.

After having written to you on the past, I shall impart to you my plans for the future. Enriched with so many treasurers, no doubt it would be most natural for me to retire to some place, where I might quietly digest this intellectual nutriment. But first I have been induced to engage in a new expedition, by promises, which, if they be kept, must furnish interesting results for the knowledge of a part of the globe at present little known, in respect to natural history. In short, I shall here quit the expedition of Captain Krusenstern, an excellent man, who is loved and esteemed by all that accompanied him; and I shall leave my friends Horner and Tilesius, as well as the officers, who will always be dear to my memory, in order to visit the west coast of North America; particularly the great island of Cadiac, at the mouth of Cook's river. The chief of this expedition will be Mr. Chamberlain Resanoff, the same person who was sent on the embassy to Japan. He will be particularly commissioned to visit the Russian settlements in America. In a few days I shall set off for the Aleutian islands, and in six weeks I hope to reach Cadiac, where I shall probably spend the winter. The following summer, that is in 1806, I shall proceed to Ochotsk, whence I shall set off, over land, for Petersburgh, in the winter of 1807. The good state of health I have hitherto enjoyed, makes me hope, that I shall equally support the fatigues, to which I am now going to expose myself.

Further Accounts of the Voyage of Dr. Langsdorff, extracted from a Letter addressed by him to Professor Blumenbach, of Gottingen, dated from Port St. Peter and Paul, the 7th of June, 1805.

I hasten to answer you on one of the subjects, of which you speak in your last letter. I can assure you, that the

astonishment some have expressed at my noticing in a foreign climate the natural productions that are well known, and even common in our own country, has never appeared to me a sufficient motive for discontinuing this practice. It was with the more pleasure, therefore, I read what you wrote on the importance it is to the philosophical study of natural history, to know what similar productions are found in remote countries. This last year I remarked in Kamtschatka, a great number of lepidopterous insects common in Europe; as *bomb.* plantiginis and caja; and *pap.* machaon, napi, daplidice, urticæ, maturna, euphrosyne, and apollo. I send you an accurate delineation of the latter, that you may form an idea of the difference occasioned by climate, between it and that of our countries, with which it might be confounded at first sight. I have also collected in Kamtschatka, a great number of other European insects. As to land, river, and sea-shells, and the vermes in general, that branch I have relinquished entirely to Mr. Tilesius.

I have learned, that Steller's sea-calf, trichecus manatus Lin. of which you speak, has long retired completely to the north, almost as far as Behring's Strait, so that I have little hope of meeting with one in my progress. I am told, that it has disappeared from Behring's Island, as well as from the rest of the Aleutians.

During my last residence here I prepared the skull of a wild sheep of this country *(argali, capra amon)* which I intend for your collection. This time Mr. Tilesius has succeeded in procuring one, a fine drawing of which he will send you. As he will probably reach Europe before me, he will forward to you the skull I have prepared.

In my letter of the 23d of August last, I mentioned to you the elegant tatooing of the inhabitants of the Marquesas, and I have since repeatedly regretted, that I did not send you an accurate drawing, to give you a more concise idea of it. I now repair the omission, and enclose a drawing of the tatooed hand of Katanuœh, queen of Nukahiwa, the largest of the new Marquesa islands. I drew it from the life with the greatest care. In the same manner I drew the whole length figures of a man; one a front, the other a back view, and I would have sent these also, had I not been afraid of the numerous accidents to which a letter is liable in its long journey from Kamtschatka to Gottingen.

You will see by the letter I have written to Dr. Noehden, that I shall not reach Europe very soon: accordingly I have requested Dr. Horner to present you from me the finest skull I have of an inhabitant of the Marqueses. I hope before my return to find something else worth offering you.

I shall now say a few words respecting our voyage to Japan. On the 7th of September, 1804, we sailed from this harbour, and instead of proceeding through the Sea of Korea, steered our course southerly so as to make the tour of Japan on the east. With this view we traversed the Japanese seas, which few Europeans have yet navigated, and which are consequently considered as very formidable. It is true we had not the pleasure of discovering new countries or new islands; but we at least acquired a more accurate knowledge of several groupes, which are laid down in the maps, near the south-east coast of Japan. Most of these islands we found did not exist, at least in the places assigned them. Thus we sought in vain for the Volcano islands, from lat. 30°. to 34°. and from long. 213°. to 216°.

On the first of October we had a terrible hurricane, some particulars of which I will give you from my journal. According to every reckoning we must have been very near the land, and from the maps we must already have passed the Little Lekey Islands. On this alarming day we were in longitude 226°. For several days, as well as on the morning of that day, the weather had been cloudy and rainy, with a great deal of wind. About noon it cleared up, and we got an observation. The latitude was 31°. 7'. The barometer was at 29.40 according to the English graduation. About one o'clock it grew cloudy again, the wind blew violently, the waves rose to a great height, the barometer continued sinking, and the wind increased in the same proportion. About half after four it was so cloudy, that the mist, the rain, and the waves

that broke over us, involved us in such darkness, we could scarce distinguish the ship's head, or the masts. The waves rose higher and higher in an alarming manner, and about half after five the barometer had sunk to 28.3. The wind rose higher and higher, and carried away a great deal of our rigging, as well as our sails, which blew about like handkerchiefs, held by one corner, with a most frightful noise. We were obliged to lash down the helm, and abandon ourselves, under bare poles, to the violence of the most terrible hurricane, and to the waves, that gave us shock after shock. Dark night covered us, the barometer continued to fall, and the wind acquired a force never heard before. Every moment we expected our masts to go by the board, and stood ready with hatchets, to cut them away.

The mouths of the guns on the poop were level with the sea. Wave after wave washed over us, and the pumps were constantly going. About eight o'clock the mercury in the barometer, having continued to sink, was no longer visible; the scale graduated in the English manner, beginning only a few lines below 28. It could be seen only when the ship received very severe shocks. The crew was as active as possible, to prevent injuries from the storm, and to remedy those that were continually happening. The storm continued. A speaking trumpet could not be heard, and nature seemed to have conspired our destruction. About ten o'clock the mercury could not be seen even in the strongest shocks of the vessel. About eleven, I was hoping, with Dr. Horner, that the mercury would again become visible, when the vessel shipped a sea, that stove in the double bulkhead of the Captain's cabin, where we were. We were washed into different corners, and thought ourselves on the brink of being separated for ever. The officers continued however to encourage the crew, and contrived to stop up the opening in the bulkhead. About one o'clock the mercury was again visible in the most violent shocks; but it may be supposed, that the storm and the wind still raged with great violence, while the barometer was not above 27.6. We looked for the return of the mercury with all the impatience which we expect that of an old friend; but the moment we were about to experience this pleasure, the vessel received another violent shock, and the barometer was broken. The fury of the wind and the sea, however, appeared to abate, and about four in the morning we could flatter ourselves we were freed from the most imminent peril.

When the sun rose, the weather was tolerably calm; and I believe the beneficent rays of that luminary never inspired more thankfulnes, than on that 2d of October. But in what state was every thing around us? it was truly a chaos; the striking image of destruction! Chests, casks, sails, ropes, every thing pell-mell. The cabins were so inundated, that clothes, books, papers, all were drenched with water, and we were obliged to bring them on deck, to dry them in the sun. From the most moderate calculation the barometer must have been as low as 27.3; and the danger we had run appeared from the nearness of the land which we saw in the south.

On the 8th we cast anchor at Nangasaki.

I cannot give you much account of Japan, where we wintered. I can only say, that I collected a great number of scarce and remarkable fishes, which will contribute not a little to extend our knowledge of ichthyology. We both laboured very hard; and I hope you will find, that, notwithstanding the seclusion in which we were kept, and the shackles put on every connexion we might have formed with the inhabitants, our harvest in this branch was pretty good. I transmit you a catalogue of the fish I collected, but I am obliged to make it out in haste, and it is far from complete. I have for the present placed among the doubtful genera those of scina, bodianus, perca, labrus, sparus, holocentrus, &c. and have not examined the species. Hereafter I shall examine them all at more leisure. When I quote Linnæus I refer to Gemelin's edition. I pass over many, the Japanese names of which I could not learn.

I am far from rivalling Mr. Tilesius in drawing, but have done what I could, and several of my drawings are intended for your collection. I send you this

time some characteristic silhouetts, that are accurate likenesses of Japanese; and to give you an idea of the singular manner in which they tie their hair, I add a coloured drawing of our porter.

I am now going to pack up all these subjects of natural history, and send the boxes to Europe by the ship on board which I have hitherto remained. For my own part I shall embark immediately for the north western coast of America, where I hope also to form an interesting collection.

Catalogue of some of the Japanese Fishes.

Hammo; Fammo.—*Muræna conger.*
Matsukasa iwo. Gasterosteus japonicus, L.
Kotschi. Platycephelus, Bloch. Callionymus indicus, L.
Irasakotschi. Trigla minuta, L.
Sebi iwo. Triglæ volitantis var. Seu potius nova species.
Mischimaschoroschi. Uranoscopus scaber, L. var. corpore nigricante albo maculato.
Kittaco. Gymnothorac catenatus, Bloch.
Sajori. Esox brasiliensis, L.
Kimmebaru?
Kannagaschira. Trigla cuculus, L.
Susi buku; Saba buku; Susume buku; Mma buku; Mmo buku; Komom buku.—*Tetrodontis species.*
Ogan, an Scarus?
Fuka; Same.—*Squali species.*
Umikinkio, an Percæ nova species?
Konoschiro. Clupea trissa.
Anaki. Blennius muræenoides, L.
Jazume anaki. Petromyzon fluviatilis.
Fefki; Dazu.—Fistulari tabacaria.
Mma iwo. Syngnathi species.
Sma iwo. Chætodon vespertilis, Bloch.
Komuki. Chætodontis species nova.
Anko. Lophius piscatorius.
Waschi, Zeus faber.
Ginno waschi. Zeus argenteus, mihi novo species.
Okose. Scorpæna volitans.
Ogosse. Scorpæna didactyla, L.
Uschinosta karei. Plueronectes bilineatus.
Horranda mebaru. An Holocentrus perca.
Kussuna. Coryphæna japonica.
Sakkino iwo. Cepolæ nova species,
Aracabu. Scorpena.
Zuschibo; Jamome kamome.—Ostracion, an nova species?
Koosa. Mærouri nova species.
Nokon nooso. Squali nova species, pristi affinis, sed rostro cirrhato.
Bensatsch. Mullus.
Aka anko. Lophius faujas,* Lacepede.
Same. Raja rhinobatos, L.
Takka karei; Koochanda karei.—Pleuronectes.
Doschwo. Cobitis fossilis.
Onaki. Muræna anguilla.
Itoi jori. An Perca lineata, L.
Makutsch. Mugil.
Jaina iwo. Chætodon guttatus, Bloch.
Nobusu; Nabekusara kaseni.—Coryphænæ nova species.
Dscha iwo; Wanibuka.—Squalus ophiocephalus, nova species
Osche. Squalus.
Simano iwo; Kembata iwo.—Chætodon occellatus, Bloch.
Je. Raja rubus.
Raja aquila.
Rajæ species nova. Cauda apice pinnata, aculeo longo ferrato arma, corpore lævi glabro.
Kamass. Esox spyræna.
Tai. Sparus dentex.
Oskikotschi. Callionymus japonicus.
Karei, Pleuronectes zebra labio superiore cirrhato.
Firasi. Scomber.
Jeso. Salmo, an Lavaretus?

* We now know where this singular fish is found, which is so rare in Europe, that only two specimens are yet known; one at Paris, in the Museum of Natural History, to which it was transferred from the Stadtholder's collection; the other in the valuable collection of Mr. Blumenbach, at Gottingen.

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The Geographical, Natural and Civil History of Chili. Translated from the original Italian of the Abbe Don J. Ignatius Molina; in 2 vols 8vo. with a Map of the country, 18s boards.

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MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

WE have now nearly reached the period when the changes effected in the political state of Europe, by a few month's negociation, will exhibit the talents of Bonaparte, as effective and preponderating in the cabinet, as his genius is rapid and irresistible in the field. The scenes passing on the Tagus and Scheld cannot for a moment withdraw his eye from the unfortunate Francis; the latter and his ministry, fascinated by their powerful enemy, seem to have lost all capacity of providing for their safety, and the event will show that they have absolutely submitted their very existence as a nation to the future discretion of the conqueror. We may fairly assume that peace has already been concluded, and that the late Austrian empire will not, as after the peace of Presburg, be left in a condition speedily "*to abuse Bonaparte's generosity.*" Should this be the case, we do not see how he can be charged with severity. He once gave them terms which they had no right to expect a second time at his mercy—and would not we ourselves, would not the British nation in such a case, provide against future injury from the wounded pride of those they had humbled.?

Sweden also, has been obliged to purchase her existence as a nation by the sacrifice of almost half her territory. The maxim of her late king, "restoration of the Bourbons, no peace with the French government," has produced its due effect, in the fall of the weaker party. The notion of eternal war, which is now a favourite with many, is most abhorrent to the natural feelings of mankind; it is equally subversive of society, repugnant to justice, and contrary to the spirit of christianity. War should be considered by governments as an extreme case, and carried on for some specific and justifiable object; not waged indefinitely, to gratify individual caprice, or for something which its advocates can never sufficiently explain. The latter could never take place, nor nations become instruments in the hands of ambitious statesmen,

did the people possess a due weight in the government, or were *their* happiness considered of sufficient consequence to influence the conduct of their governors. As to those who think that a country can maintain its independence longer, and have its prosperity better promoted, by continuing in a state of hostility with all its neighbours than by cultivating the arts of peace, we know not upon what principles their opinion is founded: but this we think certain, that the kingdom which avowedly makes its safety to depend on such a state of things will speedily be driven from its rank among the nations. Endless war between two parties is an anomaly, an absurdity, for it must end in the destruction of one of them: history and common sense equally agree in this: even a constant state of warfare has never succeeded long but with one people; and their success was owing to the policy of incorporating the conquered nations, and admitting them to a full participation of rights and privileges with themselves. France is now in some degree pursuing the same policy; but the peculiar circumstances of England, prevent her taking advantage of it. Her evident policy is peace. The superior industry, the predominating capital, the advantageous situation, and the commercial and enterprizing spirit of the people of these islands, will always entitle them to respect; and were these advantages seconded by a government possessing the confidence, and capable of calling forth the energies of the country; it were too feeble, too degrading an expression to say, that she could maintain her independence——She would have a commanding rank, a preponderating influence among the kingdoms of Europe; be able to assert her dignity with effect, or inflict chastisement for the wanton aggressions of her enemies. There appears to be another method by which England might meet her present opponent on equal terms, and counteract his arts by an honester and more prevailing policy. She cannot surround herself with confederate and dependent states, nor place princes on the thrones of captive or degraded monarchs; let her then assume that generous character evidently suggested by her own admirable constitution, "Friend of the human race, and protector of the liberties of mankind." Let her show the nations the practical blessings of freedom, and assist their efforts in procuring these blessings for themselves, and for their children. Unterrified by the phantom of a name, let her advocate revolution, and pour forth expeditions;—not to prop the tottering thrones of despots, nor curse her allies by forcing their inclinations in favour of an "infamous government," but to rescue men from slavery, and erect the empire of religion and reason on the ruins of intolerance; let her teach them to make justice the foundation of their civil institutions, and rear their political system on the inalienable rights of their citizens. In a word, their view should be directed to the British Constitution; that by seeing the blessings enjoyed under it, the danger we have escaped by its *shadow*, and the prosperity to which the country has attained, notwithstanding the multiplied and enormous abuses by which it is deformed, they might be induced to approximate their own to the same standard, and by using it as a beacon avoid the rocks whereon we are likely to founder. There are countries enough in Europe and America for this purpose, which ought to be excited by some means to form independent governments, with motives sufficient to engage the individuals composing them to fight heartily in their defence. These would be useful counterpoises, as well as auxiliaries to each other, and would form points of resistance against which Bonaparte would waste his strength in vain.—Spain, Portugal, Sicily, European and great part of Asiatic Turkey *yet* remain on this side the Atlantic, and might be made powerful and efficient engines in the hands of an able statesman; on the other side, the extensive provinces of Buenos Ayres, Terra Firma, Mexico and Peru, and the principality of Brazil, are equally, or better adapted for all the purposes of defence and annoyance. Considering the present circumstances of Great Britain, and especially her manufacturing habits, these latter places, under

the management of a liberal and manly policy, might become the most faithful and beneficial allies which she ever possessed. They might now be delivered from a most grievous state of uncertainty: they might be encouraged to assert their independence, instructed in the mode of obtaining, and defended in the enjoyment of it. They might now be attached by the most substantial benefits; benefits which this country only has the power to bestow, and which would soon be returned tenfold into our bosoms.

We reluctantly fall back to despondence; but we fear there is neither ability, spirit, nor virtue to accomplish these important purposes. Our statesmen are not eminent for such qualities; we cannot challenge competition with our neighbours, nor cast their vices into shade by the splendour of our virtues. Indeed a dereliction of principle seems to be gaining ground in the intercourse of christian nations, at which the heathens of antiquity would have blushed: a proposition submitted to the populace of Athens, two thousand years ago, was instantly and indignantly rejected for its baseness; an aggravated counterpart of which has lately been acted on by our statesmen, defended in the senate, and applauded by many ministers of the Gospel of Peace! A retributive justice frequently visits those violations of national faith with severe and appropriate punishment. A flagrant breach of this kind took place some years ago in the partitioning of Poland by three unprincipled despots; two of whom have since been partitioned almost to annihilation, and the third appears to be fast approaching his catastrophe, which, by a common fatality, he himself is actively instrumental in hastening.

We would wish, othen, to impress the eternal obligation of justice and humanity in the conduct of nations towards each other, equally, or even more strongly than in the case of individuals; as a violation of them in the former case gives a wider circulation to error, and presents a pernicious example, which diffuses its baneful effects by weakening the obligation, and sapping the foundations of religion and morality through the whole community. We would also desire to inculcate what we conceive sobriety and justness of thinking in relation to peace and war: two neighbouring families in a state of open hostility, and eager and watchful for opportunities to accomplish each other's ruin, might as well be expected to rise to eminence during the conflict, and increase in industry, wealth, and power, and especially in those qualities of the heart and mind which constitute the chief blessing of existence, as two powerful nations similarly bent on destruction. The spirit of of emulation may cause them for a time to shine with a deceitful splendour, but the principle of dissolution is operating; and they will either be destroyed by the gradual wasting of an atrophy, or a general convulsion will put a more violent termination to the struggle.

ENGLAND.

In the last number of the Edinburgh Review, in which much casuistry is employed on the subject of Parliamentary Reform, "to make the worse appear the better cause," and to reconcile us to the present constitution of the House of Commons, in opposition to a reform in parliament, a broad accusation is brought forward against the people of these countries, that they are so fond of war, that with a reformed House of Commons expressing correctly the sense of the majority of the people, wars would not be less frequent, and consequently the taxation necessary to support them would not be materially lessened. With sorrow we acknowledge our inability to repel this accusation, for we fear from past experience it is too well grounded. To go no further back than the wars of the present reign, the American war was popular at the commencement: disappointment forced the people to a sounder sentiment, and Lord North was, after a long struggle, driven from the helm to make way for peace. If the Parliament had been the correct echo of popular feeling, they would not probably have prevented the American war, though they would at a more early period have resisted the accumulated influence of ministerial power through the various ramifications of

contractorships, loan jobbing, &c. &c. and sooner terminated the contest so profitable to the leeches of the state, but so burthensome to the nation at large. The present long protracted war with France was popular with the majority of the people, though a virtuous minority withstood the general phrensy, and were in consequence, with that honest and illustrious statesman, Charles James Fox at their head, generally stigmatized with the epithets of jacobins and enemies to their country. If the present weight of taxation, and the continued ill success of the war are now operating in some degree to produce a contrary feeling, the change is more owing to selfish motives than to a sense of justice. We make these remarks with feelings of national condemnation, and call on all seriously to consider how far by their love of war, and the false glory of contest, they have contributed to the present destructive and overwhelming state of wide-spreading warfare. Let each bring it home to "his own business and bosom." We cannot justly blame administration for carrying on wars; it is their harvest; if we ourselves are deluded by false splendour to approve of the sanguinary contest. Governments are often influenced by ambition, and the sordid desire to enjoy the profits and patronage always increased to them in war, while the people are dazzled by mistaken notions of national honour, and undefined ideas of natural enemies.

As a contrast to the many pompous accounts of national prosperity with which we are frequently furnished by the public papers, let us select from the London Morning Chronicle of the 7th inst. the following trait of distress, most probably justly referrible to our system of warfare, which at once produces heavy taxation, and shuts us out from regularly receiving foreign supplies, by which causes conjointly the white quartern loaf, weighing 4*lb.* 6*oz.* avoirdupois, in London, is now raised to 17*d.* and the household to 15½*d.* which latter, at the commencement of the war was only 7*d.* and we are obliged to seek a supply of grain from France, as appears by the licences from the Privy Council; although it was one of the measures of the Pitt administration to attempt to starve France, in a supposed scarcity affecting that country.

"On Wednesday evening, a poor young woman, almost naked, with a child in her arms in the same condition, was detected stealing a loaf of bread from a baker's shop in Pimlico; on being discovered, she dropped on her knees, praying forgiveness, declaring that neither of them had eaten any that day. The wife of the baker then went with her to her lodgings, where, being well convinced of her extreme distress, she not only pardoned the offence, but allowed her to take the loaf, to which she added another for her child, and ordered her to call once a week for a similar allowance, with a caution never to be guilty of the like again."

By giving this sorrowful relation, we are not afraid that we shall be misunderstood, as countenancing the invading the property of others by theft. Thieves more generally plunder to support idleness and profligacy, than to satisfy the necessary calls of hunger. We admit that instances of the latter are rare, but in this case, we are warranted to suppose, from the subsequent inquiry made by the woman, from whom the bread was taken, that actual starvation was the cause of the act. This is one of the trophies of war, and such scenes are more suitable objects of contemplation, than the delusive glories of "the tented field."

The Common Council of the City of London, have prepared an address to the king, on the anniversary of his accession, and after much wavering and contrary motions, have resolved to apply 1000*l.* to the releasing of insolvent debtors in the city of London, in preference to spending that sum in a public feast on the day of the Jubilee. If the day must be celebrated in some way, the relief of distress is certainly preferable to the indulgence of a feast on the forty-ninth anniversary of a reign, which the order of the privy council for a form of thanksgiving, justly calls "a long and arduous reign." In history it will be characterised as signally unfortunate.

Every successive month confirms us in the conviction, that public spirit is

in a state of great depression in these countries, and excites our doubts as to the possibility of resuscitating it. As yet little stir is made in the counties, to follow the example of Middlesex in resolutions and petitions in favour of Parliamentary Reform. We fear there is much truth and just appreciation of popular feeling in the remark of Charles James Fox, made a short time before his lamented death. On being told that the people of England, were beginning, by their public meetings, to show some symptoms of the return of public spirit, he replied! "Ah! it is only like galvanism, a twitch here, and a twitch there; but the heart is dead."

While this want of public spirit remains, it is of little consequence who are ministers. Yet it is pleasing to see that Lords Grey and Grenville have had so much regard to consistency as to refuse to be connected with Percival, Eldon and Liverpool, and the remaining part of the administration. We should still more highly praise the consistency of Lord Grey, if he would now support the plan of parliamentary reform, which he brought forward in 1792. Canning and Castlereagh go out, and there seems some disposition to make the latter the scape-goat, to bear the blame of the disastrous expedition to the Scheldt, but we expect nothing better from their successors joined to the old set who keep in. Indeed, if by any means the Marquis of Wellesley be brought into the cabinet, we should deprecate the change. Misapplied energy is worse than imbecility. We recollect the manacling of the liberty of the press at Calcutta, and have no wish to see the experiment, it may prove a fatal one, revived at home.

The inefficiency and want of true love of country in the administration, are incidentally discovered afresh to the public in the letters and counter-manifestoes of the Ex-Secretaries. Canning several months ago expressed his opinion, that Castlereagh was an incapable minister, and obtains the acquiescence of the cabinet to this proposition, and yet after this avowed acknowledgment of his incapacity, Castlereagh is permitted to direct the ill-contrived and ill-managed expedition to the coast of Holland. If Canning's motives had arisen from a regard to the welfare of his country, he would not have consented to leave so momentous a concern under such management. But the whole business was a cabal for place, and to *serve friends*, with an utter disregard to the public good. Yet these men have the unblushing effrontery to publish their manifestoes, and appeal to the people, as if they were interested in their intrigues for office. But let the people profit by such disclosures, and without taking part with either, or with the remaining members of the cabinet, who are equally implicated in the foul transaction, learn to see our modern statesmen as they are, solely intent on their own emoluments, and regardless of the interests of the state. As they disregard the interests of the people, so let the people show a proper spirit by not entering into their petty cabals. A more bare-faced dereliction of public principle has not often occurred. What can be expected from a nation thus governed?

Mark what a scene London presents! The distresses of the army in Spain and Holland, an administration tottering from the imbecility of its component parts, bolstered up by props of not better materials, a most enormous load of taxation, commerce nearly excluded except by stealth from the continent of Europe. America irritated against us by our diplomatic blunders, and ready to join the long muster-roll of our enemies, the high price of the quartern loaf, of more pressing importance than the terms of admission into a theatre, and all the combined difficulties of our situation, give way to a theatrical contest, which threatens to introduce among us the evils of the rival factions at the theatre, which at once marked and accelerated the downfal of the lower Greek empire. The contests at Covent Garden, and the more solemn farce of the Jubilee absorb the public attention, and give to us the indisputable claim to a thoughtless people, who surrounded by real dangers, regardless of the precipices at each hand, pass heedlessly on in the paths of folly and dissipation. Cowper, the poet of nature, and of moral feeling, well describes this state:

"'Tis pleasant through the loop-holes of retreat,

To peep at such a world, to see the stir,
And gay confusion: roses for the cheeks,
And lilies for the brows o' faded age,
Teeth for the toothless, ringlets for the bald,
Heav'n, earth, and ocean, plunder'd of their sweets,
Nectareous essences, Olympian dews,
Sermons and *city-feasts*, and favou ite airs,
Ethereal journies, submarine exploits,
And Katterfelto with his hair on end,
At his own wonders, wond'ring for his bread.
It is not seemly, nor of a good report,
That she is slack in discipline: more prompt,
T' avenge than to prevent the breach of law;
That she is rigid in denouncing death,
On petty robbers, and indulges life,
And liberty, and oft times *honour* too,
To peculators o: the public gold;
That thieves at home must hang; but he that puts
Into his over-gorged and bloated purse,
The wealth of *Indian provinces* escapes,
This is not well, nor can it come to good."

Some prosecutions have lately taken place on account of the proposed emigration of artisans. It is unreasonable to prevent any class of people from seeking to better their condition by removing to that country, to which their interest or inclination may lead them. It is the remnant of the old intolerant system of commerce, which the more enlightened and liberal policy of Adam Smith, and others, has not yet eradicated. Like other deep-rooted prejudices, it long retains its hold on our system of legislation.—The only allowable, and indeed the only effectual way to prevent emigration is by good government, and a wise system of legislation and policy, to make it the interest of all the inhabitants to stay at home;—unless the population is too great for the means of subsistence, and in such a case the country is benefited by the emigration of a superabundant population.

It is reported that a meeting of the county of Northumberland is soon to be held to take into consideration the state of the nation.—Never was it more requisite for the people to consider the situation of public affairs. The real promoters of safety, are they who faithfully point out the impending danger, unlike the interested watchman who cries "all is well," that he may continue his practice of plunder, even in the hour of danger. The governments on the Continent have fallen one by one, because the voice of reform was not *timely* attended to. The vices of the old court of France, the dreadful entail of the debaucheries of Louis the XV. on his grandson; the intrigues of Maria Antoniette, and the total dissolution of public morals, were more powerfully effectual in promoting the revolution, than the cabals of clubs, or, the improved systems of philosophers. May the warning voice from the tombs of the Capets be not heard in vain!

At a meeting which lately took place at Liverpool, an illumination on the Jubilee was out voted, and in its place they have established an *address*, a *statue*, a *procession*, and a *ball*. The subscription to the statue is 20 guineas, and for the relief of imprisoned debtors five!!! Shame on the times, when images of stone are preferred to the living monuments of good works!

IRELAND.

In another part of this Magazine, among the public occurrences, will be found an account of a fete at Hillsborough, given on the Marquis of Downshire's coming of age. We allude to it in this place, as thinking it deserves to be noticed in the political department of the month, because so well-conducted an entertainment marks a becoming respect from a landlord to his tenants, and tends to draw closer the bands of mutual regard between the different classes of society. Let us not permit the subject to pass unnoticed, as one of the trifling events of the day, but endeavour to supply some practical observations.

About eight years ago, the late head of the house of Hill breathed his last at Hillsborough, sunk under the weight of political disappointment. It is not our present business at much length "to seek his merits to disclose or draw his frailties from their dread abode." His was a mixed, though a strongly marked character, which would, under right direction, have produced many splendid virtues, but it was not free from some striking errors,

It is to be regretted that the bent to his energetic mind took a wrong direction in the crooked, and too often immoral path of election politics. Would that his energy had been directed to higher purposes! Hillsborough, at the time of his death, exhibited the exterior of mourning. Now in the revolution of a few years, it has become the scene of rejoicing. A young man, said to possess amiable dispositions, and the fine unblunted feelings of youthful sensibility, acquiring the possession of a large property, affords legitimate cause for rejoicing, and we partake of the joyful sensations of the moment. But amid the noise of mirth and the parade of festivities, the philanthropist looks forward with anxious solicitude for fruit from so fair promise, and ardently desires that the ingenuous feelings of youth just emerging from a course of liberal education, may not be injured by an intercourse with the debasing system of politics, of which self alone is the centre; or by the routine of fashionable life, of which profusion and avarice often form the heterogeous compound. We sincerely hope that the expectations which we now entertain, may in future life be realized; and that if the Marquis should live some forty-nine or fifty years hence to celebrate the jubilee of his accession to his estates, he may then justly be the object of general well-merited regard, as he is at present of high raised expectation. VIRTUE ALONE IS THE TRUE NOBILITY. Let him who earns the wreath wear it.

Dublin has the merit, such as it is, of first taking public measures for celebrating the jubilee. With a ball they have coupled what some suppose a patriotic plan to promote the sale of Irish manufactures by the dresses on this occasion. But the casual support sought for from fashion, will do very little to benefit a country. It is a steady regular system of trade and manufactures, built on the firm basis of commercial frugality and industry, that can alone serve us. Such eleemosynary aids to trade only debase the true spirit of the people, and make them cringe to the leaders of fashion for support. The true funds for enlarging trade, are not drawn from the accidental expenses of a few of the luxurious classes of society, but from the steady resources of a regular demand. For a while the jubilee bid fair to answer the purpose of diverting public attention from the critical situation of our affairs at home and abroad. But the device has not succeeded in all places to the extent that was expected. An inquiry for what we are to rejoice, or for what we are to give thanks, has abated the ardour of the jubilee celebrators, and introduced some reflections not favourable to such plans. In London, and some other places, a direction has been given to the jubilee, to turn it to a subscription for the relief of the poor, and the release of insolvent debtors. This scheme is certainly better than the uproars of feastings and illuminations, but still the question presents—has the public happiness increased so greatly since the year 1760, as to render a celebration necessary, or justifiable on strict and rigid principle?

As to the plan of treating the poor, on the occasion to a public drinking bout as at an election, it appears degrading to a free people: tumult and huzzas may be bought, but the really felt homage of the heart is not to be purchased on such terms from the more valuable and independent part of the people. The profligate and drunken may be easily hired to shout, though unable to tell for what cause, and many may spout their loyalty at public dinners.

"Drink and be mad then: 'tis your country bids,
Gloriously drunk, obey the important call;
Her cause demands the assistance of your throats;
Ye all can swallow and she asks no more."

but men of reflection retire with a sigh, deeply impressed with the sentiment, that the present critical time require other defenders, and assistances better adapted to the exigence.—. In Belfast a mandate for a general illumination was issued by the chief magistrate, though by what law or charter he is authorized to make such an order is unknown: consequently it is presumed that had any injury been sustained by individuals in case of illuminations taking place from such an order, the responsibility of making

good the damage would have been awarded against him by the laws of our country. But the illuminations were bought off by a compromise to raise a subcription for the poor. Under the circumstance of its being a commutation for illuminations it cannot however be considered as a voluntary donation. It is not our business to describe the festivities of the day. We rather chuse to balance usefulness against pageantry, the benefits of education against the false splendour of illuminations, and give from the Belfast Commercial Chronicle of the 25th inst an estimate of the comparitive expense of supporting a school for the education of the poor, and the cost of illuminating the town of Belfast.

"By a census taken of Belfast, in the year 1806, there were 3514 houses inhabited. At a general illumination to continue for three hours, suppose on an average each house to consume three pounds of candles, at 13*d.* per pound, the amount would be £571 0. 6. the interest on which would amount yearly to £34 5. 2. By last year's statement of the *Belfast Sunday School*, the whole expenditure was £32 11. 7. where 245 children receive useful instruction, and are put in a fair way of bettering their own condition, and of becoming useful members of civilized society. The reader will decide on the merits of the two expenditures. The contrast will show the general benefit that may accrue, by money being expended on useful purposes."

The illuminations in Dublin have been splendid and costly. A fondness for show, without considering the fitness of the occasion, or the ability to bear the expense, is characteristic of the Irish nation. Our national debt is rapidly increasing. Last year England borrowed about ten millions, while Ireland increased her debt by loans of 5,389,728*l.* It appears to be the present policy of our finance minister to borrow lavishly, and stave off the payment as long as he can. The nation gains a short respite from taxation, and the minister is indulged with present ease. But a heavy load is accumulating, which cannot long be kept back from pressing most heavily on the community, and in the mean time a most profuse, improvident, and wasteful expenditure adds to our burthens. Things cannot go on much longer in the present train. Already the English say that our population and commerce are rapidly encreasing, and call for a commensurate increase of taxation. To those who know Ireland, such reasoning will appear fallacious, and by them her inability to bear much additional weight of taxation is admitted. But sooner or later we shall certainly be called on, and it would be wise in time to husband our resources, and cut off all needless expenditure. In Ireland, the unpaid balances in the hands of collectors amount to 375,483*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* upon a revenue of between five and six millions, while the balance in the hands of collectors in England, on their prodigious revenue of 67 millions, amounts only to 354,126*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* The revenue of the Post-office is collected in Scotland, at the rate of 14*l.* 10*s.* 2d. per cent. in England at 23*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* while in Ireland it costs 45*l.* 3*s.* 1½d.

The Writers of the Retrospect for last month, request the readers of the Belfast Monthly Magazine, will excuse some errors of the Press, which escaped in that part, in consequence of hurry in working off the last sheets of that number.

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

ULSTER.

ANTRIM....*Married*... Mr. S. Barber, of Belfast, merchant, to Miss Moore, of Crooked-stone. Mr. J. Cunningham, of Ballyclare, surgeon, to Jane, daughter of the late Mr. H. Houston, of Ballylagan.

Died...At Knockmore, county Antrim, Miss Ann Fulton, aged 18 years. On the 5th inst. aged 45, John Cranston, esq. of Belfast, a good husband, father, and friend. In Belfast, Mrs. Turnly, wife of Alex. Turnly. In Castle-street, Belfast, Miss Brice. At Glenarm, Mr. Andrew Dunn. In Chichester-street, Belfast, Mrs. Calwell, aged 70; few through life were more useful, or in death more regretted

GRAND FETE AT HILLSBOROUGH.

The birth-day of the Marquis of Downshire, upon the completing of his 21st year, was celebrated at Hillsborough on the 9th instant, and never have we seen a more imposing spectacle than was exhibited there on that day. Upwards of 4,500 persons, tenantry of the Kilwarlin estate, sat down to dinner at the same instant, and were plentifully supplied with the best that the season could afford. The bells of Hillsborough church, and the band of the Westmeath militia heightened the scene; witnessed by not less than 4,500 spectators besides those who dined. Our space is too confined to give a further detail of this magnificent fete, suffice it to remark, that the regularity, the decent demeanour, of the people on this occasion, evinced the extent of the influence which a good, generous, and courteous landlord can possess over his tenantry; and let it be an answer to those who are too ready to cast an imputation of mobishness and tumult on every thing *Irish*.

DOWN...*Married*...Ross Thompson, jun. esq. of Newry, to Miss Livingston, of said place.

Died...At Donaghadee, on Friday last, Mrs. Galbraith, widow of H. Galbraith, esq. late Port-surveyor of Larne.

L. DERRY...*Married*..Robert Ogilby, esq. of Dungiven, to Joice, eldest daughter of James Scott, esq. of Willsborough, in said county.

LEINSTER.

DUBLIN...*Married*..Mr. Ennis, to Miss Lawton, King's county. Ed. Archdall, esq. third son of Colonel Archdall, of Castle-Archdall, county Fermanagh, to Matilda, second daughter to W. Humphreys, esq. Gardiner's-row.

Died...The Earl of Arran, one of the Knights of St. Patrick. He is succeeded in his title by Lord Sudley. Mr. Arthur Martin, of Duke-street. In Mecklinburgh-street, Joseph M. Rainsford, esq.

MUNSTER.

CORK...*Married*...At Cork, B. Watkins, esq. First Lieutenant of the Druid frigate, to Miss Meade, of that city.

Died....At Cork, James Bennett, esq. M.D.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From September 20, till October 20.

SOON after the report for last month was sent to the press, a favourable change took place in the weather, which has continued with very little intermission ever since, and the crops of course have been generally got safe in, except in the early part of the change, that some farmers were induced, by a fear of the return of wet weather, to stack their grain before it was quite fit for it.

The wheat crops are evidently defective in a general way, through the province of Ulster, and the flour made from the new grain is much complained of; in the more southerly quarters of the kingdom, it is said to be much better.

Oats will prove a good average crop in a general way, and the complaints of the thinness of the barley crops now appear to have less foundation, than was at first apprehended.

The taking up the potatoes is in great forwardness, and they appear to turn out of the ground a tolerable crop, and are sold in the markets at a reasonable price; there has seldom happened a finer season for the purpose; if those who plant their potatoes in the drill way, would get into the practice of raising them with the plough, instead of the spade, they would save themselves much trouble and expense, labourers are now become so scarce, and the price of labour so much raised, that it behooves the farmer to adopt every eligible plan that would reduce his expenses, and enable him to meet the great increase of rent.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

IN the wide spreading devastations of war, as nations became more commercial, it was to be expected thatcommerce should especially feel its effects as one of the means of annoyance towards enemies. Neutrals also were involved; and the haughty combatants of either side refused to permit a free intercourse of the neutral flag; first, under pretence of preventing the contraband of war, such as naval stores, &c. being carried; and in this war, the difficulties to neutrals have been further extended by the fiction of declaring whole countries in a state of blockade, when their ports were not actually invested. This is one object of contest between this government and the United States of North America. Bonaparte, with the usual dexterity which he employs to bring the principles of reform to his aid, in a letter from the minister of

foreign affairs, to the American plenipotentiary, and which we recommend to the attention of our readers, as an important state paper has unfolded the germ of a new code of commercial law, by which the principle is admitted "that the flag protects the merchandize;" or in other words, according to mercantile phrase, that free bottoms, make free goods. By the promulgation of this principle, he will probably conciliate the Americans, and impress on them the idea of superior fairness, when contrasted with the late bungling conduct of our government, in refusing to ratify Mr. Erskine's treaty; showing that they knew neither to concede with dignity nor refuse with firmness, in the higgling modifications of their famous Orders in Council. At the restoration of peace, it is probable that the explanation of the neutral code, will form a prominent demand on the part of France and her allies, and if admitted, will tend to introduce a more equitable system of treating neutrals. It is surely absurd, that because two great nations quarrel, the lesser countries should be debarred from carrying on intercourse with either or both of the belligerents as they please.—After all the casuistry which has been employed to confound the principles of morality between nations, it ought to be essentially the same, and its laws equally obligatory as among individuals. If two powerful neighbours in a town quarrel, he who would attempt to prevent all neighbourhood between his opponent and the other inhabitants, would be justly held in execration. On similar principles, should the intercourse between nations be regulated.

It is a singular and humiliating circumstance that the trade of the British empire, with almost the whole continent of Europe, is carried on either by stealth, or with the occasional connivance of Bonaparte, who sometimes to suit his own convenience, or by way of concession to the states over whom he rules, permits the ports of France and Holland to be opened to trade with these countries, under the mask of neutrals, who are found so useful to supply the mutual wants of the hostile nations, while on our part, this liberty is met by licenses from the privy council. Licences have lately been granted on this side to import wheat and burr-stones, commonly called mill-stones from France, but it is said that France has since revoked the permission lately granted by them. It appears however to be a fact, that wheat is cheaper in France, than with us, and thus we have it proved that agriculture is well attended to in that country, when they can spare after the supply of their extensive population. There is no room for reviving the plan of Pitt, to starve the French nation, to whom England now looks for a supply in the case of a harvest less abundant than usual.

If a suspension of the trade of America, should continue, and we again suffer the inconveniences of a want of flax-seed, and other articles, there is room to expect that the people will be weaned from their trust in the infallibility of ministers. Last year we heard this popular cry often echoed; but some events have since occurred to awaken from this dream; the investigations in the last session of parliament, the ministerial duel, and other acknowledged miscarriages, have tended imperceptibly to lessen the confidence in administration, and may probably render the dependence on the wisdom of their councils less strong, and not so generally prevalent.

At the late linen-market in Dublin, fine linens met an extremely dull sale. Coarse goods, particularly those rated for bounty, were in brisk demand, particularly half bleached yard wides, and seven-eighth wides, which in general brought a good profit to the seller. Many of the coarse linens sold were for Spain, and some for the West Indies. Since the market coarse linens have risen greatly in the brown markets.

Shipments of linens, damask, and large quantities of Irish calicoes, have taken place to Rio Janeiro, and Demerara, during this month from Belfast, and also of linens, and calicoes, to New York, but by no means in such large quantities as usual to the latter port.

The work of reconciliation with America will probably be very difficult. It is easier to irritate by unwise councils, than to restore harmony once interrupted. The last advices from America, by the packet lately arrived at Falmouth, have a hostile aspect, and the postponement of the negociation to the meeting of Congress, in next month, forebodes a slow approach to returning confidence.

Flax is gradually declining in price. Last month best Petersburg was at 115*l.* to 119*l.* per ton in Liverpool. It afterwards fell to 106*l.* and was still lower in London, down to 104*l.* per ton. This month, the price after some fluctuation is sinking in England, owing to the large arrivals from the Baltic. In consequence, the price of flax in Ireland, has been considerably depressed. In Newry and Armagh the sale is very dull on market days, and the holders of the stock in the warehouses are very willing to sell. They remember the failure of the attempt at monopoly last year, and the consequent losses which some sustained.

The quality of the new flax appears much superior to the growth of the two last years.

The depreciation of bank notes in England is daily becoming more generally an avowed fact, and a regular discount of about 2½ per cent, between them and guineas, is the present acknowledged rate. The question is now no longer confined to the trade of Belfast, or the province of Ulster. It is a concern affecting the whole empire. In England the fact of depreciation was long denied, because no branch of their trade was exclusively carried on in guineas, but the unfavourable state of exchange on the continent discovered the real situation of their paper currency. There can be no doubt that since bank notes have by the restriction act been prevented from being paid in specie, whenever bank notes and guineas come into competition, notes will sink to a discount proportioned to a demand for the guineas. The excessive issue of Bank of England paper, raised from 11 to 20 millions, besides the greatly extended circulation of private banks, has produced a crisis, of which it is difficult to prognosticate the issue. In the all-grasping struggle for the largest share of the appropriation of wealth, the holders of Bank of England stock, have come off, for the present, gainers; as since the restriction, and in consequence of it, their stock has risen from 137 to 279 per cent. This rise cannot however be attributed to national prosperity. Let them be again forced to pay their notes in specie, and the mighty super-structure crumbles.

In Belfast, exchange on London, has been through this month, at about 8¾ for notes and 6½ for guineas; the discount on notes, 2 to 2¼ per cent. In Dublin exchange has rated from 8¼ to 8¾; discount on 61 days, Dublin Bills, is in Belfast 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per cent. The Lurgan bank discounts in Armagh, Dungannon, &c. at 1*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

MEDICAL REPORT.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from September 20, till October 20.

Barometer....highest	30	3	Thermometer....highest		60
lowest	29	0	lowest		56
mean	29	6	mean		40

Typhus,	2	Common contagious fever.
Hectica Scrophulosa,	1	Hectic fever produced by evil.
Ophthalmia,	6	Inflammation of the eyes.
Cynanche tonsillaris,	2	Quinsey
Rheumatismus acutus,	2	Acute rheumatism.
Arthrodynia,	2	Chronic do.
Podagra,	1	Gout.
Erysipilas	2	Saint Anthony's fire.
..... *Phlyctænodes*	1	Shingles.
Variola discreta,	6	Distinct small pox.
..... *confluens*,	4	Confluent do.
Rubeola,	15	Measles.
Scarlatina,	3	Scarlet fever.
Hæmoptysis,	1	Spitting of blood.
Phthysis,	2	Consumption.
Hæmorrhois,	2	Piles.
Hypochondriasis,	1	Hypochondriac disease, or "hips."
Asthma,	2	Asthma.
Hysteria,	2	Hysterics.
Hydrocephalus internus,	2	Dropsy of the brain.
Scrophula,	6	Evil.
Ranula,	1	
Psora,	4	Itch.
Herpes,	4	Tetter.
Lues venerea, *Gonorrhœa*,	10	Venereal disease.
Morbi infantiles,	20	Febrile and bowel complaints of children.

It is an observation founded on truth, that pleasure and pain, happiness and unhappiness are pretty evenly balanced in this life, and our present catalogue tends strongly to confirm it, for although from inspection the number of diseases which occasionally terminate fatally in the adult, are very few when compared with our former

numbers yet our pleasure arising from this source will be much alloyed by observing the formidable band of eruptive cutaneous diseases, viz. small-pox, scarlet-fever, and measles, which scatter death and deformity among the rising generation and nip our hopes and fairest prospects in the bud; one of the cases of hydrocephalus supervened on scarlatina, and after the usual anasarcous or dropsical appearances had gone off, the patient, a girl of thirteen years of age, was suddenly seized with violent shooting pains in the head, vomiting, slow and intermitting pulse, toral blindness, with widely dilated pupils, which were insensible to the strongest light; these symptoms were succeeded by violent convulsions, which closed the melancholy scene, in the short space of thirty hours; this termination of scarlet fever, your Reporter has never met with before this instance, nor can he find any similar case recorded in the various authorities he has consulted. Doctor Whytt, indeed, in his Treatise on the Dropsy of the Brain, mentions a case of a child who died of hydrocephalus, at the period of a year after having the measles, during which time he supposes the effusion to have been going on, but with the exception of them both having followed eruptive diseases; there is no other resemblance. Cases, purely surgical have been hitherto excluded from the list, but the case of Ranula, although strictly belonging to operative surgery, is here introduced in order to point out a more successful practice than that usually employed. Ranula, as it is termed by the Latins, or Batrachium, by the Greeks, is a collection of glary fluid, resembling the white of an egg, situated immediately under the tongue, and growing occasionally to so enormous a size, as to affect the speech, in such a manner, that every attempt to utter a word resembles the croaking of frogs, from which it derives its Greek name, your Reporter has seen more than one instance of this disease, occurring in brute animals, nor does this seem to have been unknown to the ancients, as the following extract will clearly prove. "Fit in ore puerorum aliud genus vitii, quod à Græcis nuncupatur βατραχος; interdum etiam βατραχιον Latini appellant ranam, & ranunculam; atque hic affectus non solum fit in pueris, verùm, etiam in pecoribus, & præsertim in bobus; ut habetur apud medicos veterinarios, & præsertim apud Columellam."

Vide Hieronymus Mercurialis de Morbis Puerorum Lib ii. Cap. xv.

It is not however peculiar to infancy or youth, but to be met with at every age. The usual mode of cure is to puncture the sac or bag containing the viscid matter by which it is discharged, but it almost certainly fills up again, and the patient is in the same situation as before the operation, nor does cutting away a large portion of the bag always succeed, but the operator may depend on uniform success, if, after freely opening the sac he apply a strong solution of corrosive sublimate to the whole surface of the cavity, or in very obstinate cases touch it with caustic

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From September 20, till October 20.

Nor every plant on every soil will grow;
The sallow loves the watery ground and low;
The marshes, alders; Nature seems t' ordain
The rocky cliff for the wild ash's reign;
The baleful yew to northern blasts assigns;
To shores the myrtles, and to mounts the vines. VIRGIL's GEOR.

WHETHER we examine the nascent springs of life, or trace the progress of animal and vegetable existence through the various stages from youth to old age, at every period the contemplation is replete with charms and advantage, and every season becomes interesting; if we search into the laws of vegetation, they present an unerring guide, whereby to adapt each plant to its soil and situation, and show us, that while some plants if supplied with moisture, brave the injuries of transplanting at any season; others, as, the laurel, the bay, and the laurustinus, and many other evergreen shrubs are removed with advantage immediately after the completion of their scaly buds, or hybernacule, and hardening of their shoots in the end of September The hardy deciduous trees and shrubs with the storm-defying tribe of pines, bear transplanting during October, November, December, January, February and March, but the Holly and the Ilex, or Evergreen Oak, can scarcely be transplanted with impunity at any other time than when the first leaves begin to burst the buds, which commonly happens about the beginning of May.

On examining the roots of plants, if ever new roots are formed when the plant is not in a state of growth it is extremely rare, therefore unless the soil is dry, it is rather disadvantageous to tender plants to remove them before the Spring, as it has been found by ex-

perience that they cannot resist the same portion of cold when in a debilitated as in a vigorous state, and are much more liable to be destroyed by moisture.

The mild weather which has prevailed to the present period, has retarded the decay and fall of the leaves; many of the common Ash trees yet remain green, the Sycamore is more than usually covered, some young ones are even green, as well as the young Beeches, so that if the present fine weather continues, the shoots may yet be well hardened, before the frosts can injure them.

Sept. 25, Changeable Starwort (Aster mutabilis) flowering. This flowered last year on the 17th.

October 1, Goldy Locks (Chrysocma Lynosinis) flowering.

3, Wood Starwort (Aster nemoralis) flowering.

4, Saw a Rail (Gallinula Crex. Lath) this bird as well as the Cuckoo is supposed to migrate a short time after they quit calling, but it is not uncommon to find them among the stubbles in October, and I once met with one on the 4th of November, the strange notion of the change of this bird into the Water Rail (Rallus Aquaticus) is now almost exploded, and its migration allowed. It is, however, somewhat strange, if their vernal course from the Continent, is over Britain, that many more do not stop there, than is ever found in the most verdant districts; we are however, at a loss to determine whether this is their course, or if they fly direct for Ireland, from their winter retreat.

14, Saw a few common Swallows (Hirundo rustica)

16, Common Laurustinus (Viburnum Tinus) flowering. Common Wigeon (Anas Penelope) for sale in Belfast market.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From September 20, till October 20

Those who attended to the weather of last season must find a remarkable difference; this season has been marked by a peculiar exemption from high winds, and scarcely a breeze was felt till the 22d of September, it has likewise been remarkable for the uncommon quantity of rain which fell throughout the Summer till the end of September, since which time more delightful weather has seldom been known.

Septem. 21, ...Dry.
22, 24, ... Showery.
25, ... Dry.
26, ...Dry day, wet stormy night.
27, ...Showery.
28, 30, ...Trifling Showers,
October 1, ...Slight misty rain.
2, 14, ...Fine dark weather.
15, ...A shower.
16, 18, ...Dark dry drys.
19, ...Showers.
20, ...Slight showers scarcely perceptible.

The range of the Barometer during this period has been scarcely perceptible, it had been during the end of September 29-8, on the 29th it rose to 30, where it has continued since that time.

The thermometer on the mornings of September 24 and 29, was as low as 44°, the remainder of the time it has been remarkably high for the season, varying from 54 to 58, and on the morning of the 2d of October, it was as high as 60.

The mid-day heat was on the 2d of October, as high as 66.° on the 7th 69, and never so low as 51, except on the 12th, when it was at that temperature.

The wind during this period, has been S.W. 11, S.E. 7, N.W. 4, W. 1, E. 2.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR NOVEMBER, 1809.

On the 1st of this month the moon rises at 3 min. past 0 morning, and is seen during the morning before sun-rise to the west of the first star of the Lion. She culminates at 47 min. past 6, and sets at 15 min. past 2 P. M. At 9 she is 3.° 11′ from Pollux, and 75° 0′ from the sun.

5th. She rises at 51 min past 4 A.M, under the five stars in the Triangle; being soon after followed by Venus and the first of the Virgin. She passes our Meridian at 58 min. past 9 A.M. and sets at 49 past 3 P.M. At 9 she is 50° 0′ from Regulus.

10th, She rises at 5 min. past 11 A. M. and is seen to the west of the twelfth star of the Archer, and of course the small stars in his head are to the east of her. She passes the Meridian and sets 15 min. past 7. At noon she is 69° 13 from Femalhaut.

15th. She passes the Meridian at 21 min. past 7. being nearly in a line with the two western of the four stars in the Square and Femalhaut; she sets the next morning at 6 min. past 0. At 9 she is 53° 31′ from the first of the Ram.

20th. She passes the Merid. at 11 min. past 11 P. M. the three first stars of the Ram being above her to the west, and the Pleiades above her to the east of the Meridian. Directly above her is Menkar, with the three first stars of the Whale. At 9 she is 66° 37′ from the second of the Twins.

25th. She rises 43 min. past 7 P. M. to the east of the third of the Twins, and as she ascends will be perceived to be in a conspicuous situation between Orion and the two first of the Twins, and the two first of the Little Dog. At 9 she is 36° 47′ from Aldebaran.

30th. She rises at midnight, and may be observed under the body of the Lion.

Mercury is a morning star during this month, being at his inferior conjunction on the second, of course he cannot be seen till towards the middle of the month, at which time he will be easily seen in the south-east. The Moon passes him on the seventh.

Venus is a morning star, during the whole of this month. Her brilliancy united to that of Mercury, after the middle of the month, will adorn the eastern hemisphere, to the south of east south-east. The Moon passes her on the 5th.

Mars, is an evening star during this month, be on the meridian at 58 min. past 3, on the evening of the 1st. The moon passes im on the 11th.

Jupiter shines through the greater part of the night this month; his motion is retrograde through nearly 2½ deg. The moon passes him on the 18th; Saturn is in conjunction with the Sun on the 28th, till which time he is evening star, so near however the horizon at Sun set, that few persons will observe him; the Moon passes him on the 9th.

Herschell is in his conjunction on the 2d. from which time he becomes a morning star, but too near the Sun for some time to be observed. The Moon passes him on the 6th.

ECLIPSES OF JUPITER'S SATELLITES.

1st SATELLITE. *Emersions.*				2d SATELLITE. *Emersions.*				3d SATELLITE.							
DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M	s.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.		DAYS.	H.	M.	S.
1	17	54	34	2	5	23	26	4	20	16	29	Im.				
3	12	23	20	5	18	41	39	4	22	31	0	E.				
5	6	52	11	9	8	0	10	12	0	18	22	Im.				
7	1	20	58	12	21	18	26	12	2	31	55	E.				
8	19	49	49	16	10	36	51	19	4	20	25	Im.	* *First Satellite Continued.*			
10	14	18	37	19	23	55	7	19	6	33	5	E.	21	5	11	49
12	8	47	30	23	13	13	30	26	8	23	11	Im.	22	23	40	46
14	3	16	19	27	2	31	47	26	10	35	3	E.	24	18	9	57
15	21	45	14	30	15	50	7						26	12	38	55
17	16	14	3										28	7	7	27
19	10	42	58										30	1	36	25

Look to the right hand *

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In this number we give the Pocket Companion of the Royal Humane Society in the form, in which it was originally intended to appear. A disappointment prevented its appearing properly in the last number.

The effusions of M'K. The Mother and Child by M.W. The Thunder Storm by Lydia, and the Song by the happy R. B. shall be returned, on application at the publishers.

Mr. Williams' paper arrived too late for insertion this month, but shall appear in our next; as shall The Tour to Mourne; The Dying Soldier; also Violet Lodge; and The Verses on Miss Newton, if the liberty of altering two defective lines is not objected to. The paper of Observations on the "Visit to England," and other articles are under consideration.